MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 NOVEMBER 1982

Lebanon

Protest to Iranians, Ba'labakk Situation -- Foreign Minister Elie Salim protested to the Iranian ambassador over the recent actions of armed Iranians in Ba'labakk and warned that Lebanon will break diplomatic relations with Iran unless the latter immediately withdraws its armed men from Lebanon, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. After his meeting with Salim, the Iranian ambassador nevertheless denied that Iranians were among those who recently attacked the government house in Ba'labakk, according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, the Syrians reinforced their positions in Ba'labakk, where the security situation was calm, the radio noted. The bodies of five Iranians were discovered in a nearby village, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Ash-Shuf Situation -- Eight bodies were found in a well in the Ash-Shuf township of 'Ayn Zhalta, Beirut radio reported. Radio Free Lebanon blamed the killings on Druze militia from Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party, asserting that the dead were among a number of Christians kidnapped from Kafr Nabrakh village about 2 weeks ago.

Israeli-Syrian Contacts -- Voice of Lebanon radio said it has learned from high-level diplomatic sources in Beirut that Israel and Syria have recently held secret contacts through Iranian businessmen in an attempt to achieve "a kind of coordination" over the situation in Lebanon.

MA'ARIV on Lebanon -- The Assessment in Jerusalem is that the IDF will remain in Lebanon through and even beyond the winter in view of Syria's "rigid position" in the political negotiations over the evacuation of foreign forces, the Israeli daily MA'ARIV reported. A senior Israeli political source cited by the paper opined that President Amin al-Jumayyil is subject to Syrian influence and will follow the dictates of Damascus in the negotiations. In the same issue of MA'ARIV, a commentary expressed support for those Israeli Cabinet ministers who have proposed a unilateral IDF withdrawal to a security strip 40 km from the Israeli border.

PLO

'Arafat in Damascus -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Damascus to preside over the PLO Central Council meeting scheduled to convene 25 November, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

PLO-Egyptian Talks -- PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad al-Yamani stated that the "so-called" Palestinian delegation which recently met in Cairo with the Egyptian foreign minister did not represent the PLO and was not commissioned by the PLO Executive Committee, SANA reported. The official strongly condemned any attempt to remove Egypt from its isolation, SANA added. A Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command spokesman also criticized the talks, another SANA report noted. A "responsible source" in Cairo termed the criticism of the talks by "a number" of Palestinian movements "charlatanism" and a reiteration of Syrian slogans that will not solve the Palestinian issue, MENA reported. PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir stated that Yasir 'Arafat will go to Egypt only when Cairo takes practical steps to distance itself from the Camp David policy, Voice of Lebanon radio revealed.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Algerian-Saudi Talks -- A joint statement issued at the end of Saudi King Fahd's talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid noted that the two leaders discussed bilateral relations, Middle East issues and the situation in Africa, SPA reported. The talks

were held in an atmosphere of "complete understanding" and "mutual confidence," the statement stressed. The Algerian foreign minister told SPA that the talks included a discussion of the Arab Maghreb, according to another SPA report.

King Fahd left Algeria on 23 November for a private visit to Morocco; he was accompanied by the Saudi ministers of foreign affairs, petroleum, labor and planning, MAP reported.

Tripartite Meeting -- A second summit meeting was held in Algiers consisting of President Bendjedid, King Fahd and PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat, APS reported. The PLO leader revealed that the summit dealt with a number of subjects "of extreme importance," including the Palestinian issue, Algiers radio reported.

OAPEC Meeting -- The oil ministers of the Organization of Arab Petroleum-Exporting Countries are meeting in Kuwait, KUNA reported.

GCC

The joint defense plan adopted by the recent GCC summit conference provides for the establishment of a massive air defense network financed by Saudi Arabia to cover the entire region, the Paris weekly AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI reported. The network will use the most advanced early warning devices and will be capable of protecting the oilfields and the Strait of Hormuz. The defense plan also aims at establishing joint training for the armies of the GCC states, the magazine added. The report also said the GCC leaders decided to continue supporting Iraq in its war with Iran; however, this support will not go beyond increasing material aid and obtaining or paying for arms supplies to the Iraqis.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Activities -- More than 1,300 Iranians were killed during clashes on the Maysan front, a military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed. A military communique broadcast by Tehran radio stated that Iranian forces continued to consolidate and maintain their positions on various fronts.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments -- Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told PASDAR-E ISLAM Magazine that Iraq is in "big trouble" since Iran has recaptured most of the strategic border heights and that Iraq does not have the resources to defend itself on all the four main war fronts, IRNA reported. Iran cannot accept peace with Iraq until compensation is paid and it could take 10 years after a cease-fire is established for compensation to be settled, the Majlis speaker added.

Egypt

Noting Israeli media reports that Israel will not start negotiations on Tabah before Egypt returns its ambassador to Tel Aviv, President Husni Mubarak said in an interview with French television carried by MENA that the departure or recall of the ambassador is an act of Egyptian sovereignty and "we will accept no prior conditions under any circumstances."

Jordan

Security authorities believe that a fire which broke out at Al-Yarmuk University on 20 November was caused by a small explosive charge placed by a saboteur, Amman radio reported. Jerusalm radio's Arabic service claimed that Syria was behind the explosion and also said that Jordanian circles have expressed concern at recent Syrian reconnaissance overflights of Jordanian territory.

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AD-DAJANI TALKS IN EGYPT 'DEVIATION' FROM PNC

JN232145 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2050 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Damascus, 23 Nov (SANA) -- A Palestinian official has stated that the so-called Palestinian delegation, which was described as representing the PLO and which recently met with the foreign minister of the Egyptian regime, does not represent the PLO and was not commissioned by the PLO Executive Committee.

Commenting on reports published by the Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR yesterday that the above delegation had met with the foreign minister of the Egyptian regime, PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad al-Yamani, alias Abu Mahir, said that this meeting was a deviation from the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council in the sessions it held in the wake of As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem.

In a press statement, Ahmad al-Yamani strongly condemned any attempt to remove the Egyptian regime from its isolation. He also called for complete interaction with the Egyptian masses and their national and progressive forces for defeating the Camp David accords, toppling their emblems, eliminating the Camp David results and returning Egypt to its role in the Arab struggle.

The Lebanese paper AS-SAFIR yesterday reported that PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani and a PLO delegation recently met with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, foreign minister of the Egyptian regime, in the presence of two Egyptian ministers.

PFLP-GC SCORES PALESTINIAN TALKS IN EGYPT

N232135 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2045 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Damascus, 23 Nov (SANA) -- The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has expressed its condemnation and [word indistinct] of the contacts and negotiations held by Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, PLO Executive Committee member, with the regime of Husni Mubarak. Commenting on these contacts and negotiations, the front's official spokesman, Fadl Shururu, said that this man provokes our surprise before he does our condemnation. Ad-Dajani, he added, cannot hide his agentry when he talks about the return of the Egyptian regime, which has been isolated from the Arab nation, to the Arab ranks.

AL-WAZIR: 'ARAFAT EGYPT VISIT CONDITIONAL

NC231357 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], official in charge of military affairs in the [Fatah-affiliated] Al-'Asifah organization, has said that Mr Yasir 'Arafat will go to Egypt only when Cairo takes practical measures that would distance it from the Camp David policy.

Furthermore, this Palestinian official has censured the Arab states for having foresaken the military option.

STEADFASTNESS FRONT SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN ALGIERS

GF221039 Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Doha, 22 Nov (QNA) -- In a report from Algeria, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB quoted today well-informed Arab sources as saying that a summit of the leaders of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front will be held soon in the Algerian capital.

The sources explained that a foreign ministers meeting of the front, which is comprised of Algeria, Libya, Syria, the PDRY and the PLO, will precede the convocation of the summit. The sources pointed out that the ministerial conference is likely to be held in Algeria on Saturday and will be immediately followed by the summit conference. These sources affirmed to the newspaper that the upcoming summit of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front will be one of the front's most important and most prominent summit conferences and that decisive stands will be adopted on significant issues, especially with respect to relations among the front's members.

Furthermore, the sources pointed out that high on the list of issues to be discussed, on which decisions will be made, will be the relations among the front's members, developments in the Arab situation since the holding of the Fes summit, the stand on peace efforts, results of the activities of the seven-member Arab committee, affirmation of support for Syria and the PLO and the necessity of improving their bilateral relations, and a strategy for the front based on the confrontation of upcoming developments.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS ON FRICTION WITH SYRIA

PM230935 Paris LE MONDE in French 19 Nov 82 p 5

[Part III of Erich Rouleau article: "The Palestinians in Search of Survival III -- the Divided State"]

[Text] Damascus -- A Syrian soldier, snoozing on a chair, his rifle laid carelessly on his knees, mounted guard at the door of a modest building in downtown Damascus. A young man in civilian dress checked the visitor's identity before allowing him to enter -- who would have guessed it? -- the PLO headquarters, where around 60 Palestinian Resistance leaders, led by Mr Yasir 'Arafat, were gathered.

As soon as their guests had withdrawn from the Lebanese capital, the Damascus authorities invoked sovereignty to inform them that they alone could guarantee their security and would not allow fedayeen carrying arms, or even wearing uniform, to move around within the cities. A small number of top Resistance leaders would each be entitled to two bodyguards and one automobile. Right from the first audience he granted the PLO leaders, President al-Asad warned them in an imperious tone that "Damascus is not and never will be Beirut."

Things are, therefore, clear: In Damascus Mr 'Arafat and his friends will never occupy offices equivalent to those in the Arab university or in the Fakhihani District of Beirut, which they had turned into a fortress, concentrating in it their civilian and military cadres, their offices and administrative departments, their printing houses, newspapers and arsenals.

Furthermore, they will not be able to maintain preferential relations with their "grassroots," the Palestinians in Syria who, unlike those in Lebanon, are obliged to refrain from any activity deemed incompatible with the will of the state.

They will no longer have free access to the mass media which in Beirut had enabled them to address Arab and international opinion directly: While the Ba'thist government's newspapers, radio and television permit themselves to conceal, censor or even cut the fedayeen organizations' statements and communiques, the representatives of the world press have difficulty in exercising their profession in a country in which they are not always welcome.

Witness the U.S. television team which had come specially from New York on a date agreed upon with the PLO chairman: It was delayed for 20 hours at Damascus airport before being turned back without further ceremony. "Mr 'Arafat did not inform us of the arrival of those journalists who, moreover, were not equipped with visas," Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar explained to us, with a hint of a smile, while giving the expulsion order to one of his aides.

"We have been thwarted more than once," we were told by a top Fatah cadre, "but we must be patient because we are more dependent than ever on Syrian hospitality." The Resistance's armed present in southern Lebanon -- fatahland as the Israelis had dubbed it -- and the PLO infrastructures throughout Lebanon gave the fedayeen relative autonomy from Damascus' forces deployed in the country under cover of the Arab Deterrence Force.

The fighters who withdrew from Beirut were disarmed as soon as they arrived in Syria and isolated in camps far removed from urban centers. They can only leave them for short periods with permission. President al-Asad is reported to have grown angry when he learned that Palestinian commandos had laid an ambush for an Israeli patrol in the Al-Biqa' in Lebanon, where some 30,000 Syrian soldiers are deployed. He then warned the various fedayeen organizations that he "would tolerate no provocation" which might lead to an Israeli-Syrian confrontation.

The PLO cadres do not yet all know whether they will settle in Damascus, Tunis or elsewhere. Most have no fixed residence; many of them are staying with relatives or in hotels. The shelves in their offices are empty. The archives evacuated from Beirut, many in the form of microfilm, have not been unpacked. Moreover, they will be unusable until the various departments of the fedayeen federation, split up and scattered, resume their activities. Many technical bodies and many trade union organizations grouping workers, students and lawyers, engineers, writers or journlaists in the diaspora have suspended their activities until they find a refuge where an atmosphere of freedom would enable them to function normally. But which Arab state would be willing to welcome so many "centers of subversion?"

A "Generally Positive" Result

"The fedayeen state" has undoubtedly collapsed. The Resistance leaders nonetheless maintain, in essence, that the result of the Lebanon war is "generally positive." "We resisted one of the most powerful armies in the world for almost 3 months," Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] leader Nayif Hawatimah told us, for instance. "Almost all of our military or political cadres have come out unscathed; we have never had so much prestige among the Palestinians and in world opinion; thus we won a major political victory, whereas Mr Begin's government's credibility was seriously undermined, even in Isreal and in the Jewish Diaspora. Even the scattering of our forces and our institutions is an element of strength since they are more indestructible than ever...."

Nonetheless it would be difficult to compensate for the loss of Lebanon as a sanctuary, operational base and platform. Abu 'Ali Mustafa, deputy leader of Georges Habbash's PFLP, readily admitted that, but he asserted: "It will take us no more than 2 years to repair the damage done to us." "The defeat which we suffered in Jordan in 1970 was much more damaging in all spheres but it did not prevent us from spreading our influence among our people and on the international stage. The military factor has never been decisive in our conflict with Israel...."

Confidence in the Resistance's vitality does not prevent some PLO leaders and officials from indulging in self-criticism in private which may herald "far-reaching changes." "We made the same mistakes in Lebanon as we did in Jordan," they note. Far from having been trained to become mobile and uncatchable guerrillas, the fedayeen were organized and equipped according to the norms of a regular army which quite naturally could not measure up to the Israeli war machine.

In addition, the Palestinian fighters treated Lebanon like a conquered country, as they had done Jordan, indulging in excesses which eventually set the majority of the population against them. "In so doing we facilitated the task of all those who were trying to expel us," we were told by a senior Fatah cadre, who added: "Of course, we succeeded in establishing ties with the progressive groups in the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, but by treating them less as allies than as auxiliaries we helped to weaken their position among their own people who were more concerned with their daily problems than with our cause."

While supporting that analysis, another Fatah official objected: "Let us be frank: We would never have been able to survive the last 15 years if we had not created a state within a state, first in Jordan, then in Lebanon. The Palestinian Revolution needs a Hanoi, a sanctuary, which no Arab country is willing or able to give us...." He added nostalgically: "It's over; we no longer have the means of founding a third republic-in-exile, unless there are upheavals in the Arab world...."

The PLO's left wing reproaches Mr 'Arafat for his "accommodating attitude" toward the conservative regimes in the region, which are "all accomplices of Israel and the United States" and advocates a "tough" policy toward them to force them to support the Palestinian Resistance.

Abu Salih, one of Fatah's main leaders, thinks it is necessary to secure a high contribution from the Palestinian "bourgeoisie" to try and free the PLO from "the oil shaykhs' financial grip."

The Democratic Front [presumably DFLP], the Popular Front [presumably PFLP] and the Communist Party think it is vital for the fedayeen federation to exert pressure on governments, especially by establishing "close cooperation" with all the revolutionary movements in the region. "The Arab peoples did not show their solidarity with the Palestinian movement during the Lebanon war for many reasons, but essentially because they are tempted to identify the PLO with the regimes which oppress them," Mr Bashir al-Barghuthi, secretary general of the clandestine Communist Party in the occupied territories, maintained.

"Our first target should be Jordan, where conditions for establishing a national and democratic government are more favorable than elsewhere," 'Ali Mustafa stated, while specifying: "We have no intention of seizing power in Amman, but the Hashemite Kingdom -- which houses the highest concentration of Palestinians -- forms the natural and crucial basis for our fight." While awaiting better days the PFLP deputy secretary general said that it is necessary to "negotiate the political and technical aspects of our presence in Syria."

A Daunting Dilemma

The task already started is arduous, in view of the serious dispute and the mutual suspicion which exist between the two sides. The Palestinians have not forgotten that the Syrian Army initially intervened in Lebanon to support the Christian militia against the fedayeen and their progressive allies, going so far as to take part in the bombing of the Tall az-Za'tar refugee camp in 1976.

Damascus' about-face in favor of the Resistance was late in coming and highly dubious, a PLO leader maintained, recalling that the Syrian forces in practice merely maintained a precarious balance between the Palestinians and the right-wing Maronite adversaries with, among other things, the aim of remaining the arbiters of the situation. "In the final analysis," our interlocutor concluded, "the Syrians, by their egoism and short-sightedness, contributed to our expulsion from Lebanon."

Furthermore, the Palestinians have not forgiven Syria for "abandoning" them "to their fate," as soon as the Israeli invasion started, by pulling back its troops without putting up serious resistance, then by agreeing to conclude a separate truce. The appeals for help launched by Mr 'Arafat went unanswered. President al-Asad, it is reported, refused to answer the telephone when the PLO leader called him from Beirut, while the besieged Lebanese capital was being bombed.

The Syrian head of state, for his part, regarded Mr 'Arafat as "irresponsible" and a "schemer," who, if allowed to do what he liked, would place Syria's security in danger. The men hardly spoke to each other at the Fes Arab summit.

The distrust of Syria has deep roots. Many PLO officials have long been convinced that, because of its "hegemonistic" designs, the Ba'thist government has never been in favor of the creation of an independent Palestinian state and that its apparent support for the fedayeen federation is merely motivated by the desire to use it as a tool in its diplomacy.

The dilemma facing the Palestinian leaders is, therefore, daunting. On the one hand it is crucial for them to preserve what little autonomy they still have after the loss of Lebanese sanctuary. In addition they are doomed to reach agreement with the "strong" Damascus government which is capable of removing their freedom of action.

Indeed, the PLO cannot afford to break with Syria. Its geographical proximity to the territories occupied by Israel and to the countries bordering on the Jewish state (Lebanon and Jordan, in which some 1.7 million Palestinians live), the fact that Damascus passes on to the fedayeen the aid received from the USSR and President al-Asad's persistent refusal to "capitulate to Israeli expansionism and U.S. imperialism," are all factors which urge the Resistance leaders to be accommodating toward the Ba'thist government.

Nonetheless, they are trying to reduce the hold which the Syrian "brothers" have, notably by expanding their international audience and seeking -- not without risk -- points of support in other Arab countries.

'SOURCES' COMMENT ON PRICE, PRODUCTION TALKS

GF191642 Doha QNA in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Nov (QNA) -- Informed oil industry sources in Abu Dhabi have said that Gulf petroleum consultations are currently being held among the countries of the region on the situation of the international oil market as a result of the oil glut, and on developing means to stop the deteriorating prices of the international market, in light of the GCC countries' warning which was issued during their meeting in Muscat last month. The warning stated that the GCC would not bear too long the imposed sacrifices caused by some OPEC countries which do not abide by the prices and production agreed upon quotas.

These sources told the QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi that these negotiations include the difficulties which some OPEC countries are facing in marketing because some member countries have sold their petroleum at prices less than the base price which is $34 per barrel, the price which had previously been set by the organization. Some others have ignored the production quota which was set by the organization which is 17.5 million barrels per day. The sources pointed out that some countries are pumping more oil than their allowed quota which was set by the organization.

The sources said that these negotiations aim at adopting joint stands during the forthcoming meeting of the organization which is expected to be held in Vienna, after Nigeria withdrew its offer to hold the meeting.

The sources stressed the anxiousness of the UAE and the other (?member) countries of the GCC to maintain OPEC's unity and defend its base price and quota system in order to serve all the member countries. The sources said that the forthcoming meeting will settle many issues which have developed in the petroleum market as result of the international glut and oscillations in prices and production.

KUNA PREVIEWS 24 NOVEMBER OAPEC TALKS

LD221056 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 22 Nov (KUNA) -- The oil ministers, or their representatives, of 10 Arab countries will hold a meeting here next Wednesday within the framework of the 29th ministerial council meeting of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC].

A number of important topics are expected to be presented at the ministerial council meeting, among which will be the consideration of establishing a joint Arab project for petroleum-based protein.

The ministers will approve the budgets of the organization's General Secretariat, the judicial body and the Arab Petroleum Institute for Training for next year.

The council will follow up on the implementation of resolutions of the second Arab energy conference held last March in Doha, review the General Secretariat's reports on the conferences and symposiums organized during the current year, and discuss some technical studies.

IRAQI, SYRIAN OIL MINISTERS VIEW OIL DISPUTE

LD232124 Kuwait KUNA in English 1020 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 23 (KUNA) -- Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi was quoted Tuesday as deploring that his country's oil production is running at 650,000 barrels a day, although Iraq can produce 1.2 million b/d under the quota set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC].

The minister, who arrived here Monday night for a meeting of the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) added in a statement to AL-ANBA newspaper published today that the production cut was due to "limited exporting outlets."

Iraq explained that Iraq's oil exports were affected by the war (?with Iran) since the country's southern oil export terminals were out of action due to the war conditions.

Iraq's production is sufficient to meet domestic demand and allow for some exports through Turkey, the minister said, but indicated that his country is importing certain types of oil products to support local supplies.

On the oil dispute with Syria, the minister indicated that Syria decided to shut off its pipeline in the face of Iraqi crude exports for political reasons, adding that the reopening of the lines was dependent on the Syrian attitude.

Syria, which at one stage supported Iran against Iraq in the war, last April shut off pipelines carrying Iraqi oil exports to two Mediterranean terminals, thus depriving Iraq of exporting the bulk of its oil production.

On the pricing structure of OPEC, of which Iraq is a member Taqi ruled out the possibility of any price increase for the time being and stressed that OPEC members must be committed to the organization's individual production quotas and pricing system.

The prices should reflect the real value of the commodity and be in line with the international inflation, the minister concluded.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement to AL-ANBA daily, the Syrian oil minister 'Abd al-Jabbar ad-Dahhak made it clear that the oil dispute with Iraq was pertinent to sovereignty issues and had nothing to do with oil prices or the volume of oil pumped through Syrian pipelines. The minister did not elaborate.

On the Iraqi complaint lodged with OAPEC's arbitration panel on the pipeline question, Dahak indicated that his country would respect and support the legal body, but he emphasized that it must draw a distinction betwen the right of Arab countries and those of other organizations and must perform properly.

The minister, who came to Kuwait for OAPEC ministerial session on Wednesday, put his country's crude production at 8.5 million tons a year, adding that Syria annually imports nine million tons of crude from Iran to meet requirements of its domestic refineries.

He said two major natural gas projects are now underway in Syria's northern and north-eastern areas to utilize gas deposits in the petrochemical industries and to replace naphtha in the ammonia industry. Studies are being conducted on optimal exploitation of gas from 20 exploratory wells, the minister said.

OAPEC OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON OIL PRICE REDUCTION

GF231116 Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Nov 82

[TExt] Ash-Shariqah, 23 Nov (QNA) -- Dr 'Ali 'Atiqah, secretary general of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, OAPEC, has confirmed reports that have been circulating about the inclination of certain oil countries to reduce their oil prices.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-KHALIJ here today, Dr 'Atiqah said such a reduction would change some benefits not only with respect to the oil countries but with respect to the entire world. He added that this reduction would discourage efforts to develop energy sources to replace petroleum such as nuclear and solar energies.

He said one of the issues to be raised at the OAPEC ministerial meeting to be held in Kuwait tomorrow is a complaint by Iraq against Syria regarding Syria's shutting down of the pipeline which pumps Iraqi crude oil across Syria. He pointed out that the complaint will be examined by the OAPEC judicial committee. He added that during the meeting, the plan for building a drydock in Algeria will be broached again.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC SUMMIT AGREES ON JOINT AIR DEFENSE PLAN

PM231143 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 15-21 Nov 82 pp 6, 7

['Ali Hasin report]

[Excerpts] Manama -- The third Gulf summit conference has achieved what the previous two summit conferences failed to achieve because of the work and preparations made over the past 1 and 1/2 years for the sublime objective of unity.

GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Yaqub Bisharah has stated that the third GCC summit conference was the most important of the three and that it was different from the previous two summits in its qualities, studies and decisions.

Bisharah told AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI that the past days in the life of the GCC were fruitful and produced not only words but also agreements which have brought the area closer to unity.

Despite all the support for Iraq -- at least moral support -- the summit conference chose to wait and see. The Gulf leaders refrained from supporting the view calling for the withdrawal of ambassadors from Tehran, at least temporarily until the results of the mediations, which have been active recently, are finally known, despite the fact that Iran's attitude has so far been negative.

The leaders decided to maintain their commitment to the Fes summit resolutions especially those relating to the need for implementing the Arab joint defense pact, which means supporting Iraq as an Arab country against which aggression has been committed, but without carrying out this commitment for the time being because the military capabilities of the GCC states are still limited and do not allow for involvement in a war that is devouring everything. It was secretly decided that aid to Iraq would continue, though not publicly, and that this step would not go beyond increasing material aid and supplying Iraq with advanced weapons which the GCC states can easily obtain or pay for if bought directly by Iraq from the source.

The results, as far as the Gulf war is concerned, were as follows:

1. Encouraging mediation to stop the war with an offer of everything possible to facilitate this, with the hint that the GCC states are prepared to contribute to the compensation for the losses and to the rebuilding of projects and vital establishments in the two warring countries, as necessary for rebuilding their economies which have suffered almost fatal damage.

2. Urging the GCC states which have so far taken a neutral stand on the war to declare support for Iraq and provide it with the necessary aid, and also to use their relations with Iran to urge it to stop the war.

3. Asking the Arab states outside the Gulf which have ties with Iran to utilize these ties to serve peace.

4. Making serious diplomatic efforts with the states which have influence in Baghdad and Tehran to urge the two to come to the negotiating table.

One important achievement of the summit conference was the approval of the joint defense plan. AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI has learned that the plan is based on setting up a massive air defense network financed by Saudi Arabia to cover the entire region. The newtork will use the most advanced early warning devices and will be capable of protecting the oilfields and the international navigation route leading to them through the Hormuz Strait.

The plan also provides for the unification of the military systems used by the armies of the area states, and their weapons and training systems by introducing joint training, and for the exchange of military missions at company and battalion levels so the armies throughout the region will be acclimatized and ready to operate in any of the GCC states in the event of serious internal disturbances or foreign invasion.

KUWAIT

INTERIOR MINISTRY URGES ACTION ON ILLEGAL RESIDENTS

GF171134 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Nov 82 p 1

[Excerpts] The Kuwaiti Government yesterday urged the nation's business community to help speed up the exit of illegal residents before the December 31 deadline.

In an interview with the ARAB TIMES, the assistant-undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior, Mr Sulayman al-Mish'an, called on private firms and contractors to cooperate with the Department of Passports, Nationality and Residence and to assist in maintaining what he termed peace and security in Kuwait.

He urged businessmen to come forward and report cases of illegal residents employed by them, or to apply for their visas.

If they had any complaints such as shortage of staff, they should contact the Social Affairs Ministry to provide them with adequate working staff, he said.

Mr Mish'an strongly denied that the issue of visiting visas has been stopped.

He said: "Nothing has changed since the government deadline on illegal residents was announced on September 5.

Mr Mish'an said the new residence rules were introduced to regulate the number of workers entering Kuwait.

Referring to visiting visas or no objection certificates (NOC's) already issued, Mr Mish'an said: "People can enter, provided their NOC's are valid."

However, for people holding new entry permits issued after September 5, the latest residence rules apply.

Mr Mish'an said: "For people with entry permits issued after the amnesty was announced, endorsements from a Kuwaiti embassy or consulate is essential. "If countries do not have such a facility, those people can get endorsements from the department in Kuwait on producing health and conduct certificates."

Mr Mish'an repeated earlier statements warning of strict penalties for offenders.

25,595 Ordered To Leave

GF192044 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 18 Nov 82 p 1

[Summary] Sulayman al-Mish'an, Interior Ministry assistant under secretary for nationality, passport and residence affairs, has noted that 25,595 people have violated the residence law and have been ordered to leave the country by 8 November. He added that the status of another 9,580 people has been resolved and they have received residence permits. Of these, 4,586 are Arab nationals and 4,994 non-Arabs.

OMAN

SULTAN QABUS DELIVERS NATIONAL DAY SPEECH

GF180946 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0428 GMT 18 Nov 82

[Speech by Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id at 18 November National Day ceremony in Muscat -- live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dear citizens: It pleases us to meet to celebrate our 12th National Day and the accomplishments we have achieved together with God's help and grace over the past 12 years, [applause] during which we firmly laid the foundations for our present lives, about which we are happy. We are looking forward to the future with hope and determination to fulfill more hopes for development and prosperity for our dear country. [applause]

While witnessing a new year in our victorious march, we satisfactorily recall the progress our efforts have yielded, progress which added more to our accomplishments throughout the country [applause] and set a true example for serious work and sincere cooperation to elevate Oman and make it proud. [applause]

Citizens, for many years we have tried to diversify our national income, widen the foundation of our national economy in the hope of reducing dependence on oil revenues [applause] and exploiting the natural resources in our country. It pleases us to say that our plans in this regard have started to yield fruit. Nevertheless, we must rally efforts, now more than ever before, to achieve the highest degree of self-sufficiency in staple and vital products for our country. [applause] Therefore, we have taken steps to encourage and subsidize local industries and projects to exploit all our resources [applause] with an emphasis on training and qualifying our human resources for the maximum use. All of this has been part of our development, social and economic plans. It pleases us to say that in this regard, the recommendations and suggestions which the Consultative Assembly gives to the state, contribute in many fields and our country and people profit greatly. [applause]

The development of countries and the achievement of prosperity for their peoples largely depend on how economically strong these countries are. Hence, our constant efforts to adopt an economic policy to achieve steady and favorable economic growth and enable our country to resist the negative impact of international economic recession [applause] which increased in past years in a manner unprecedented in its gravity and its far-reaching repercussions; it has had an impact on developing countries in particular. That is why we tried to make our economic plans completely flexible in a way that enables us to tackle things practically under the current international situation and at the same time, enables us to implement the vital and basic projects necessary for our country's development and our people's prosperity. [applause] In this respect, we are moving forward in implementing our second 5-year plan and following priorities which take into consideration what we have mentioned. [applause]

Citizens, out of our pride in our youth and as an embodiment of our great concern about preparing them to carry out their duty toward their homeland, the foundation stone for the Qabus university is being laid [applause] to signal the beginning of work on this great project, which will include many university buildings. Next year, God willing, we will build a comprehensive sports city. [applause] We have established a supreme youth council under our presidency and we will make 1983 a year for the Omani youth and devote the next National Day to them. [applause] All of this is to emphasize the role of youth and to give them every opportunity possible to play a positive role in all fields. [applause]

Citizens, while sharing with the fraternal Gulf countries their concern about developing and improving cooperation in all fields, we do not spare any effort in enhancing and bolstering our common Gulf march, from which all our peoples will profit. [applause] In this respect, a great step has been taken in implementing the unified economic agreement of the GCC countries. [applause] The resolutions that have been made in this respect will equally serve Oman's interest and the interests of all the GCC countries by creating a favorable atmosphere for joint development. [applause] On the level of our Arab region, we called for the adoption of a wise policy and asked the region's leaders to understand the meaning of balance between international and economic powers and consequently, to deal with them wisely and moderately in a way that might serve the vital interests of the people of our Arab nation. [applause] The events that took place in the Middle East this year proved that what we called for was right. [applause] These events clearly exposed those who always claimed strong support for their friends in our Arab region when they quickly let them down and did not extend any aid to them; such people and their friends in and outside of our Arab world did not do anything to solve the region's problems. [applause]

Had these people adopted positive stands to support the initiatives that were made to establish an honorable and just peace in the Middle East instead of blocking these initiatives, it would have helped in averting much suffering, and our Arab issue would have achieved an effective political victory. In view of these events, we, the Arabs, must rally our efforts to serve the real Arab interests; we must be wary of all those who try to harm our people's vital interests with their hollow slogans and their false claims that they are the only friends and allies of the Arab peoples. [applause] We must also be wary of those who distort the teachings of our righteous religion of Islam to achieve their political goals. [applause] On this same day last year, we called on all our Arab brothers to put aside their differences and work together, using all their potential, to serve our common issues. We now reiterate our appeal to our brothers and emphasize the great importance of unifying the Arab ranks at this crucial stage in our Arab nation's life. [applause]

This year the world witnessed serious developments that clearly showed the instability of the international situation. They also showed that some countries and international powers do not recognize international norms, regulations and humanitarian principles and they commit acts of violence, brutal and ugly massacres and use internationally-banned chemical weapons against those who are fighting for the freedom of their homelands and to extricate them from foreign control. [applause]

All these acts constituted a grave threat to the United Nations and its mission, charter and resolutions, which have frequently been ignored to the extent that it has become clear that the international organization is threatened with becoming a weak organization, unable and helpless to impose respect for the principles and values for which it was established. It is high time that each country shoulder its responsibility within the international community to revive and confirm the United Nations' role and empower it to serve international peace and security. [applause]

While asking the international community to shoulder its responsibility in this regard, we emphasize our commitment to our UN obligations and our commitment to cooperate with all peace-loving countries, looking forward to the day on which we will see the international organization become an effective instrument for the good and safety of the international community.

Our duty in the current international situation requires us to be more determined and to rally our efforts to carry out our responsibilities toward our country, our brothers in the Arab family and our friends in the international community. [applause]

Dear citizens, it pleases us to proudly greet our valiant armed forces [applause] in all sectors for their glorious role and remarkable contribution to the stability, tranquillity and affluence that have been achieved in our country, stressing our keenness to increase efforts to always improve their capability and to supply them with the most advanced weapons and ammunition and with those things that enable them to carry out their glorious mission of guarding our national soil nad safeguarding our country's march for good, affluence and development.

We turn to Almighty God to keep all the graces which He has donated to us and to our country and to make us grateful so that He may give us more of them. He is all-hearing and ready to answer. May God grant us success in all that is good and righteous. Happy new year. Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [applause]

SAUDI ARABIA

MOROCCAN, KUWAITI MINISTERS ARRIVE IN RIYADH

LD202054 Riyadh SPA in English 1914 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 20 (SPA) -- Moroccan Energy Minister Moussa Saadio and Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah arrived here tonight on a visit to Saudi Arabia. They were greeted at the airport by Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani and several senior Saudi officials. On arrival, Mr Saadi told reporters that the visit was in the framework of joint efforts to boost relations between the two sisterly states.

Mr Saadi said he would hold talks with Yamani on issues pertaining to bilateral cooperation in the field of oil, exploration, mining and joint ventures. He added that discussion would also cover issues relating to the Rabat-based Arab mineral resources organization and Saudi oil supplies to Morocco.

OPEC Prices Supported

LD202106 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1950 GMT 20 Nov 82

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Nov (SPA) -- Kuwaiti Oil Minister His Excellency Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah and Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani stressed that both the Kingdom and Kuwait support OPEC's present price. This was said in a statement made by the two ministers to SPA.

His Excellency 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah said the Kingdom and Kuwait strongly support OPEC's present prices and want it to be sustained.

His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani supported what was said by the Kuwaiti oil minister. He said that what has been reported by news agencies recently, attributed to him, was a clear distortion of a statement intended to explain the Kingdom's support of the current prices and incite the other OPEC members to act in a way that will strengthen the official prices in the world petroleum markets.

YAMANI COMMENTS ON SERIOUSNESS OF OPEC DIFFERENCES

GF191752 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 18 Nov 82 p 19

[Article by Hayfa' Kahlafallah, including an interview with Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani in Kuwait on 17 November]

[Text] Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani has announced for the first time that he does not object to carrying out a study on any proposal to change the posted price of oil if this is the view of OPEC members on condition that this is done through negotiations, "although we prefer no change in the current prices."

Yamani arrived in Kuwait yesterday on an 8-hour visit during which he met with the amir and conveyed to him a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Official sources have denied that the message is connected with oil affairs. He left Kuwait yesterday and was seen off by Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, minister of oil affairs, and 'Abd ar-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, adviser to chief of state.

Regarding the present OPEC crisis, the Saudi petroleum and mineral affairs minister answered the following questions from AL-WATAN:

[Question] Is it true that differences within OPEC are now worse than at any time in the past, particularly as countries like Nigeria and Indonesia have reduced the prices of their oil to less than the official OPEC prices?

[Answer] This is not true. Throughout its existence OPEC has experienced many differences and a solution was reached every time. If the Western press reports this, it does not mean we should believe it. Indonesia's oil prices were different from OPEC's. However, the present differences are not the worst OPEC has seen.

[Question] Can we be sure that Saudi Arabia will maintain under all circumstances OPEC's posted price of $34 per barrel of Arabian crude?

[Answer] We have always said we are open to all suggestions and solutions, for the preservation of OPEC unity is the primary concern of Saudi Arabia and the GCC countries. Of course we prefer that the present posted price not change. However, if our "brothers" in OPEC see otherwise, we can discuss the matter at the negotiating table. As I have already said, we are open to any suggestion in this regard.

[Question] What about Saudi Arabia's oil production, will you increase it?

[Answer] How can we increase it -- we are now producing less than our actual production capacity in order to maintain the strength of the oil market.

[Question] Where will OPEC's next meeting be held, in Vienna or Lagos?

[Answer] It does not matter. We can hold the meeting in any country. However, we prefer to hold it in Lagos.

Gulf analysts of oil affairs say it is possible Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah and Shaykh Yamani may have discussed plans to change the venue of the next OPEC meeting scheduled to be held on 9 December in Lagos, Vienna or Geneva.

Oil industry sources had said Nigeria and Saudi Arabia are poles apart in the dispute over dividing market shares and this is the reason why a number of OPEC's Gulf members prefer a "neutral" venue for the meeting.

Gulf countries believe they are carrying an unfair share of the burden in defending OPEC's posted price of $34 per barrel. They have asked other exporting countries to desist from cutting their prices and from ignoring the shares allocated to them by OPEC or face punitive measures.

Oil industry sources have described the reaction to the warning issued on 14 October as negative and predicted an almost certain confrontation on oil prices. They say Iran, Libya and Venezuela are getting more than their permitted share in the shrinking market.

OFFICIAL DELIVERS FAHD MESSAGE TO SYRIAN PRESIDENT

LD221104 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Nov (SPA) -- Assistant Deputy Commander of the National Guard 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri returned to Riyadh today from a Damascus after a 1-day visit to Syria.

At-Tuwayjiri delivered a message from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during the visit.

UAE

PAPERS ACCUSE U.S. OF SERVING ISRAELI INTERESTS

GF220911 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0720 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Nov (WAM) -- Two local newspapers strongly criticized the United States today. The newspapers editorially accused the United States of working to serve the U.S.-Israeli alliance to envelop the Arab homeland.

Under the title "U.S. Collusion Under the Banner of Mediation", the newspaper AL-WAHDAH assailed U.S. envoy Philip Habib's mission. It said: "Since Philip Habib embarked on his so-called mediation mission, the lists of martyrs, victims of children, women, youths and Arabs have increased. The cost in terms of economic sabotage and cultural destruction in Lebanon and the psychological collapse and pan-Arab cracking on the Arab side outside Lebanon has also increased."

The newspaper added: "More dangerous is the fact that since the so-called U.S. mediation mission began by Philip Habib, the area of occupied Arab territory has increased. The hostile expansionist air and naval operations of the invading Israeli forces which have used the most dangerous U.S.-made weapons have also increased."

Furthermore, the newspaper was suprised by the U.S. dealing with the Arabs on these two lines without any secrecy. "The United States is for full alliance with the Israeli force and the hostile Israeli superiority. The United States is for political moves aimed at sabotaging the pan-Arab stand to the advantage of the Israeli plan under the cover of the U.S. initiative which is being implemented by U.S. officials, the latest of whom is Philip Habib." The newspaper said: "The Americans are waging the dirtiest of wars against the Arab people from whose fortune they gain and to whose markets they export their goods. They meet peace with hostility and alliance with annihiliation."

The newspaper pointed out that the simplest condition of mediation is neutrality between the belligerents or conflicting parties, and that the United States is daily announcing that it is more Israeli than the Israelis themselves.

In conclusion the newspaper queried: "How can Philip Habib's peaceful U.S. role be believed?"

The Ash-Shariqah newspaper AL-KHALIJ called upon the Arab countries to rearrange the map of Arab solidarity so it serves a comprehensive Arab strategy that never neglects any alternative options to peaceful action and to step up their pro-Palestinian stands militarily, "in light of the exposition of the U.S. stand which gives everything to Israel and withholds everthing from the Arabs."

In that regard, the newspaper called upon the Arab countries abutting occupied Palestine and Lebanon to give all necessary aid so that Palestinian and Lebanese military guerrilla actions will expand and spread against the enemy and its various establishments. AL-KHALIJ referred to the Israeli conditions for withdrawal from Lebanon. It said these conditions "reveal the U.S. and Israeli intentions to solve the Palestinian problem by linking it with the Camp David accords in a new and revised form. They want to stay in Lebanon within the framework of expanding the U.S.-Israeli alliance so that it envelops the Arab homeland with various covers."

The newspaper affirmed that the prevention of these plans lies in "letting loose the Palestinian Revolution's military force within the framework of a firm Arab stand toward the United States and giving full Arab support to the Palestinian struggle."

PDRY

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS OMAN AGREEMENT, OTHER ISSUES

GF211819 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, YSP Central Committee member and foreign minister, has said the signing of the agreement of principles for normalizing relations between our country and Oman -- achieved through the mediation of Kuwait and the UAE -- is in accordance with the line followed by our country and with its foreign policy, which is based on peaceful coexistence between the PDRY and the Sultanate of Oman.

In a television interview broadcast last night, Ad-Dali said the establishment of neighborly relations aims to stave off external threats to the region and the U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Gulf.

Referring to our country's foreign policy, the foreign minister said it is based on the establishment of normal relations with peace-loving countries, strengthening relations with friends in the socialist camp, solidarity with world liberation movements struggling for freedom and independence and supporting the bases of world peace within international and other frameworks that aim to confront colonialism and imperialism so as to establish international relations that preserve world peace.

Referring to our country's relations with Arab countries, Ad-Dali said: Immediately after independence we sought to establish normal relations with all Arab countries without exception. Recently, we redoubled our efforts to strengthen these relations on the basis of the brotherhood and common interests that bind us. He added: We have special relations with the countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. The relations have developed because they are founded on sound bases: peaceful coexistence, noninterference in internal affairs and unconditional cooperation.

The foreign minister lauded the PDRY's relations with socialist countries and said they are good and sound and are based on the principle of international solidarity and reciprocal support. He said these relations are a result of the policy pursued by the revolution and regime in our socialist-oriented country and of our policy that is opposed to imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism.

Brother ad-Dali referred to the role of U.S. imperialism in the area and its aim to impose its influence and exploit the wealth of the area peoples. He said the latest onslaught against Lebanon is part of the strategy that aims to subjugate the peoples of the area to the monopolist exploitation of imperialist companies. He said this threat can be faced by uniting the ranks and resolving differences among Arab countries.

Referring to the Iraqi-Iranian war and to the Ethiopian-Somali conflict, the foreign minister said our country has called for the peaceful resolution of these disputes. He said the war serves the interests of the enemies of peoples.

Referring to the PDRY-Libyan-Ethiopian tripartite agreement, the foreign minister said the agreement serves the interests of the three parties and furthers cooperation in economic, social, cultural and information fields. He expressed the hope that the articles of the agreement will be implemented to further economic and various other programs.

PDRY POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER MEETS CSSR OFFICIAL

GF231618 Aden ANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Aden, 23 Nov (ANA) -- Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, discussed with comrade (Meruslav Vitsk), deputy chairman of the Czechoslovak National Front, at his office today, bilateral and friendly relations between our country and the CSSR and the Arab and international political developments.

During the meeting they stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between the people's defense committees and peace and solidarity council of the two friendly countries.

The meeting was attended by Brother Sulayman Nasir Muhammad, member of the Central Committee and national chairman of the Popular Defense Committee and several officials.

MUBARAK INTERVIEWED PRIOR TO MITTERRAND VISIT

NC231133 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has stressed that European public opinion is of great importance in reaching a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, even where the United States is concerned. Citing the case of the Camp David initiative, he said the United States used to talk with France, Britain and all the European states to support the Camp David initiative. It wanted strong support to enable it to go ahead with the process, and without Europe's support, the initiative would have been weak.

In an interview with Ignace Dalles, AFP correspondent in Cairo, on the occasion of French President Mitterrand's visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, which begins tomorrow, President Mubarak notes that the importance of this visit stems from the strong relations that have linked the two countries for a long time. He said: I was the first Arab to meet with President Mitterrand after he assumed the presidency. There were other meetings, the last of which was in January when I was enroute to the United States. We are also linked by economic and military relations and by cooperation in many other fields. We are agreed on continuing the exchange of views and information on issues of interest to our two friendly countries.

The following is the text of the interview:

Question: What is the significance of President Mitterrand's visit to Egypt, and how important is it?

Answer: We are linked with France by strong relations which began a long time ago. There were strong relations between the former French president and President as-Sadat. However, with President Mitterrand I was the first Arab to meet with him after he assumed the presidency.

I met with him in July 1981. We talked a great deal about all bilateral and international questions. Our discussions were characterized by complete frankness on my part as well as on the part of President Mitterrand. We also came to an understanding with President Mitterrand in this particular place during the funeral of President as-Sadat. I also met him while enroute to the United States last January.

We have several relations, economic and military ones, linking us with France. There is cooperation in many other fields. We are agreed on continuing the exchange of views and information on issues of interest to our two countries. Here emerges the importance of President Mitterrand's visit to Egypt.

Question: Is the French-Egyptian initiative still valid or has it been ruled out, and if so, what is the reason?

Answer: The Egyptian-French initiative was proposed at the United Nations and its discussion started at the United Nations. However, U.S. President Ronald Reagan declared his initiatives, and France and we agreed to freeze the Egyptian-French initiative for the present in order to give an opportunity for the U.S. President's initiative to take its course. President Reagan's initiative includes positive and negative aspects. Let us leave the United States to begin the peace process on the basis of this initiative. If we find that Reagan's initiative has achieved nothing, then we can utilize the French initiative.

Question: What role can be attributed to France in helping to reach a comprehensive solution in the Middle East, since you had earlier said the United States had utilized all its cards 100 percent, as well as the possibilities for a solution; what has remained for France?

Answer: [Former] President Carter had sent a message to President as-Sadat before the initiative. The U.S. President cannot discuss a peace initiative or take any measure for solving the Palestinian issue unless it is supported by strong U.S. public opinion and a strong European public opinion. This is what prompted the U.S. President to take more effective measures and anything else for solving the issue. This was one of the main reasons which prompted the president to take the initiative. That is why I said it must be based on U.S. public opinion. After this, he began to think of the initiative. European public opinion is very valuable, even to the United States. This is evident by the fact that when the Camp David initiative appeared, America was talking to France, Britain, and all the European countries in order to enlist support for Camp David. It wanted strong support in order to proceed with the process, because without the support of Europe the initiative would be weak.

Question: Newsmen who have come to Egypt have been surprised about the harsh attitude the Egyptian press has been taking toward Israel since the Lebanese crisis. How would you describe your relationship with Israel now, and how will it be in the future, especially as Begin and Sharon are continuing the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories, despite worldwide denunciation?

Answer: I want to say something which must be clear. I do not interfere with the Egyptian press. I do not tell them to ease or halt their attacks. The only thing I might tell them is to stop attacking or speaking about the Arab states. However, as for what has taken place in Lebanon and the Beirut massacre, the entire world -- all the countries of the world -- attacked it [Israel]. Are you asking the Egyptian press to stand with its arms folded? It behaves like any other press. Furthermore, the Egyptian press is an Egyptian press. Egypt is an Arab country, and Lebanon is an Arab country which was attacked and in which a massacre has taken place. [Words indistinct] I personally was extremely harsh in my addresses against Israel because this is a principle. If the entire world is not pleased with this obdurate stand then how can we accept it?

Question: I repeat the question. What will future relations with Israel be like, especially now that, despite international denunciation, Begin and Sharon are continuing to establish settlements in the occupied territories?

Answer: Our stand is known. We started the peace process and will continue to work to give impetus to the peace issue. Israel is committed, within the Camp David peace framework, to the right of self-determination for the Palestinians which is the core of the dispute. We will continue to do all we can to reach a just solution to this question -- the Palestinian people's question. I cannot say what will happen if it continues in this direction. However, I hope Israel will reconsider its stand so all of us can live in peace. I also hope that it will not persist in the process of land occupation, and that we can reach a solution concerning the fate of the Palestinian people.

Question: Is there a definite period of grace for Israel to do so?

Answer: We have a lot of patience.

Question: What advice do you give, at this phase, to the PLO Central Committee and to the Palestine National Council scheduled to meet next week? Will you give this advice directly to Yasir 'Arafat?

Answer: We have views that we have sent to Yasir 'Arafat. I repeat, Yasir 'Arafat must announce his recognition of Israel to enable the Americans, as they have said, to begin the dialogue with them.

Question: Last summer, the Egyptian press was disappointed with U.S. policy in the area. Did President Reagan's initiative restore confidence between the two countries?

Answer: Before Reagan's initiative, there was no move of consequence for the United States. The Lebanese events took place then, things became more complicated and loss of condidence in the United States increased. Thus, the United States issued the Reagan initiative and demanded approval and participation in it in order for it to be effective. This initiative has positive and negative points, but it is the only initiative that is in the arena which has forces behind it that can manipulate it.

Question: What are its negative points?

Answer: We have sent our remarks on the initiative to the United States.

Question: Why hasn't Egypt participated in the OAU foreign ministers meetings when some states that have bad relations with Al-Qadhdhafi have participated?

Answer: We told Al-Qadhdhafi that we will not attend an African summit conference in Tripoli as long as we do not have diplomatic relations with him. Our policy is clear. We do not have an embassy or anything else there. We originally objected to the convocation of the African summit in Nairobi in 1981.

Question: In this regard, isn't there a slight difference between France and Egypt on the attitude toward Libya?

Answer: France has its policy on Libya and we do not interfere. We too have our policy on Libya. We might exchange views but we do not interfere in each other's affairs.

France might have trade and other relations and this does not harm us. France has its dealings and we cannot exert pressure on it, and we do not accept that any state should impose anything on us regarding our relations with other states.

Question: Is Egypt facing economic problems a year after your assumption of power?

Answer: The economic problem has existed for a long time. It is nothing new, but it is the result of various wars. The proof is that the sewage problem has existed for many years -- it is 20 years old. We have many problems that require much manpower and money to resolve. We are proceeding along the path of resolving the economic problem. It is a difficult path. The economic problem cannot be resolved in 1, 2, or 3 years.

Are there no economic problems in France? Are there no economic problems in Britain? Italy has many economic problems. Aren't there 13 million unemployed in the United States? Tell me who doesn't have economic problems.

The difference between us and others is that we seek a way for a solution and we follow it. The results of the economic problem do not appear in 1 or 2 weeks or in 1 or 2 years. In the beginning, we did not follow any plans. We used to implement any project that was proposed. We were told to implement projects and we did so. There is a 5-year plan now. During this fiscal year, we will present a part of the 5-year plan to the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council which will consider and approve it. Therefore, the country's economy is based on production, and the economic policy is based, for the first time, on a 5-year plan.

Regarding the [economic] openness [open-door policy] and no openness, what openness? Is everything over merely because the president said openness? There were some people who approved the openness and others who opposed it, each according to their own interests. The Soviet Union opposes openness and it has openness. It has an Italian company which produces Fiat cars. There are foreign companies operating in the Soviet Union. There are American companies operating there. However, the Soviet Union did not call this openness. These companies operate there without an openness policy. We said openness, and the openness story stuck.

Question: One of the bad effects of the word "openness", according to the opposition and some friends, is the scandal involving 'Ismat as-Sadat. Doesn't this harm the image of the regime?

Answer: I want to say something. The opposition members who speak about the openness, own companies themselves. When they oppose openness, they don't really oppose openness, but merely oppose for the sake of opposition, regrettably.

If there is a corruption case in Egypt, then it is absolutely not because of the openness. If this was the case, then the whole world would be corrupt. The Americans and all of France would then be corrupt because all of this involves openness. Aren't they open?

Aren't Britain and Italy open? Could it be that the entire world is corrupt and we are living in a corrupt world?

The problem, however, is not so. We have one, two, three or four cases of corruption. Our information media exaggerates, to sell newspapers, they exaggerate and write. We in Egypt are much less corrupt than many other states. We have a few cases of corruption — the cases of 'Ismat, Rashad 'Uthman, Tawfiq 'Abd al-Hayy, and say 10 other cases.

Question: The ASH-SHA'B paper mentioned the name of Jihan as-Sadat?

Answer: We have no information on this. The ASH-SHA'B paper will say anything. It talks a lot. Its line is to exaggerate and defame. It has nothing else to say.

I know that the opposition speaks and makes suggestions in the interests of the people. Have they left out anything without speaking about it? They raised everything that was written in THE WASHINGTON POST about the arms and it is all nonsense. This is the kind of nonsense used by the communists to deceive the rest of the people. These allegations leave me absolutely indifferent.

Question: Will the authorities go to the end with such people as 'Ismat as-Sadat?

Answer: We will not bother much about them. If you listen to those who read the papers, you will hear them say that President Mubarak has invented the story of 'Ismat as-Sadat to cover up, for example, the visit of Jihan as-Sadat to Europe or that he has invented the As-Sadat story as a political move aimed at turning public opinion in another direction. We do not support this.

There will be no joking with anyone who breaks the law. We will not interfere if the law acquits him. I have no business in this.

Do you think we invented the story of 'Ismat as-Sadat to create a din and then stop it? I challenge anyone to list all the cases of corruption in all states. Let us calculate how many cases of corruption there are in Egypt. There can be no comparison of the corruption prevailing in Egypt and the corruption that prevails elsewhere.

Question: Is the cause of the clamor the fact that 'Ismat as-Sadat is the brother of departed President Anwar as-Sadat?

Answer: What shall we do to him? The law is the judge. If Anwar as-Sadat knew about all his brother's activities, he would have sent him to court. I know this very well.

Question: It appears that Your Excellency has fully controlled the situation and you have released a large number [of detainees]. Why then did you extend the state of emergency?

Answer: The Emergency Law has been in force in Egypt for 80 years. The Emergency Law was drawn up so we may arrest anyone who disturbs the country's security. The head of any state in the world will not wait for a law or anything else when he sees a danger threatening the state. He will adopt the measures necessary to ensure the safety of the state. Could this be odd in Egypt alone?

I will tell you that many states have approached us saying: Tell us about your experience with the extremists. Many states in the Far East and many Islamic states have approached us to ask about our experience in this field.

Question: Does Your Excellency believe that they [the extremists] constitute a danger to the security in Egypt?

Answer: If we leave them alone, their number would naturally increase. We launch enlightenment campaigns and show that all they say totally contradicts religion. Therefore, we hold seminars so the people may see them.

Question: Thank you, Mr President.

MUBARAK INTERVIEWED BY FRENCH TELEVISION

NC240924 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has stressed that Egypt absolutely will not accept preconditions by Israel for negotiations over Tabah, such as the condition for the return of the Egyptian ambassador, whatever the circumstances. In an interview with Dominique Brumenger, foreign affairs editor for French television, and Jean Pierre, head of political affairs, President Mubarak stated that the autonomy talks have reached the point of disagreement. There is a big gap. The Israelis set the condition that the talks be held in Jerusalem. Then the Lebanese events occurred, and this was followed by President Reagan's initiative.

We are waiting for the autonomy talks to start anew with the participation of other parties, as outlined in Reagan's initiative.

Mubarak points out that he welcomes a visit to Cairo by Yasir 'Arafat to discuss with him the future of the Palestinian question, the way of solving it, and concentration on boosting the peace process.

The following is the text of the interview that was broadcast on French television Channel 1:

Question: What is the difference between present-day Egypt and Egypt during As-Sadat's era?

Answer: It is said that I am far from public life. In fact, I am absolutely not far from public life. I do not like using the information media much, but I am continuing my public life and absolutely cannot isolate myself from it. Regarding the Egypt of today and As-Sadat's Egypt, each of us has his own character. President as-Sadat's character differed somewhat from mine. The state's general policy, however, has not changed with the advent of a new president, as certain people believe. We are proceeding on the path of peace, in other words, peace is inescapable -- the same peace process and its potential. We are trying to develop our economic situation, because it is the main problem. I do not believe there is a big disparity between As-Sadat's Egypt and Egypt now.

Question: What is the main criticism levelled at President as-Sadat?

Answer: You cannot say that President as-Sadat has been forgotten. Any great leader or statesman who performs extraordinary deeds is usually liable to criticism. I do not believe that the man who began democratic life, launched the October war, embarked on the peace treaty, signed the peace agreement, and proceeded to solve the Palestinian question, which has remained a complicated issue in the area for well over 30 years, has been forgotten. I differ from him because I like to work quietly and somewhat away from the information media.

Question: Your Excellency has said that the most important issue is the economic problem. Those opposed to you say that Your Excellency is characterized by confidence, prudence, and caution. What is your opinion?

Answer: I believe that it is not shameful to be cautious, because I am not dealing with my personal belongings. When I consider a decision or discuss something that concerns the people, who number 45 million, and make a decision, it will affect these 45 million people. Under the complicated economic circumstances we are passing through, a decision must be studied completely. This is caution.

Question: Since the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv was recalled, relations between Egypt and Israel have been completely frozen. What remains of Egyptian-Israeli cooperation?

Answer: That is a strange question. We are dealing with Israel as with any other country in the world, and not as a state with a preferred status. There have been diplomatic relations between us and Israel since we signed the peace treaty. There are still some trade relations between us, although they say there are no trade relations. We are still selling them oil and they are purchasing some materials from us. We have not stopped this dealing, although we are opposed to the method they used in Lebanon.

I do not see anything strange or feel that relations have been frozen as they claim. We withdrew our ambassador for consultations when the situation reached a crisis with the massacre in Beirut, which the whole world assailed. I do not think there is a freeze [in relations] as the Israelis claim. They are saying this because they want further cooperation.

Question: After what happened in Lebanon and the massacres that took place in the Sabra and Shatila camps, did you consider completely severing diplomatic relations with Israel?

Answer: As a matter of fact, severing diplomatic relations must be weighed deeply and must achieve a purpose. If I believed or if after study I found that severing diplomatic relations would have served the issue, I would not have hesitated. However, I found that recalling the Egyptian ambassador for consultations was the best solution.

Question: When will you return the ambassador to Israel?

Answer: There is no specific time frame. However, what has drawn my attention is that the Israeli information media -- and we are talking about the negotiations on the Tabah problem -- have stated that Israel will not start negotiations on Tabah before the Egyptian ambassador returns. Israel does not accept preconditions. It has never accepted any preconditions since we started dealing and negotiating with it. How can it impose conditions for negotiations on Tabah. The departure or recall of the ambassador is an act of Egyptian sovereignty. We will accept no prior conditions under any circumstances.

Question: Do you still expect anything from the Camp David agreements?

Answer: We still have the autonomy talks, which are the second part of the Camp David accords. To those who attack Camp David, I would like to tell them that Camp David is the only basis to which Israel and the United States have committed themselves for solving the issue.

Question: Are the autonomy talks frozen?

Answer: No. They are not frozen. We have reached points of difference and a big gulf, then came the events in Lebanon and afterward, or rather earlier, after I took office, the Israelis began to set conditions for the talks, namely, that they should be held in Jerusalem. This is something that did not happen before. Then came the Reagan initiative, which is essentially based on the Camp David framework. We expect the autonomy talks to resume with the participation of other parties, as mentioned in the Reagan initiative.

Question: What about your visit to Israel?

Answer: This is subject to many circumstances. The Israelis have invited me, but their insistence that I should visit Jerusalem as Israel's capital is a point of difference between me and them. They have told me that As-Sadat visited Jerusalem. I have told them that he went to Jerusalem as part of his [peace] initiative, but that he later disagreed with them in the summer of 1980 and there was an exchange of strongly worded letters following their declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. As for me visiting Israel, the time may come for me to do it after this mist [dabad] is over and we reach a framework for a final solution of the problem.

Question: Will you invite 'Arafat to visit Cairo?

Answer: Yes, yes. I welcome him. At least we will discuss with him the future of the Palestinian issue, which is the main problem. We have not discussed this subject yet. However, I welcome him in order to discuss the future of the issue and how to resolve it. The discussion with 'Arafat must concentrate on how to accelerate the peace process and not where the PLO should be seated or other issues.

Question: After the Reagan initiative about which we have spoken, let's now talk about the Egyptian-French initiative, which calls for mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. What has happened to this initiative?

Answer: The Egyptian-French initiative was submitted to the United Nations before the Reagan initiative. Following Reagan's initiative, we and France agreed to postpone the Egyptian-French initiative to give Reagan's initiative a chance to take its course.

Question: The Lebanese war has led to increased rapprochment among the Arab states. Would you ultimately expect Egypt to return to its position among the Arab states and do you hope they will take the first step?

Answer: What has happened between the Arabs and Egypt has happened after the peace initiative and the peace agreement. I would like to repeat in this respect that you can all -- the whole world and the Arab world -- know well that through As-Sadat's initiative, Egypt aims at a solution of the Middle East question. The fact that differences broke out between us and our Arab brothers, which led them to sever diplomatic relations with Egypt for a period, does not absolutely mean that Egypt moved away from the Arabs or that the Arabs attempted to move away from Egypt. Despite the severance of diplomatic relations, we have continuous contacts with the Arab states except Syria. We have constant contacts with the PLO and there are trade relations and contacts with several states. However, we do not want to impose anything on our Arab brothers and we leave the question of restoring the relations to them as they deem appropriate. On our part, we say that Egypt is an Arab state and that Egypt cannot dispense with its Arab brothers. Brothers usually differ, but in the end things return to normal.

Question: Can Lebanon establish diplomatic relations with Israel as you have done?

Answer: By God, I cannot impose anything on Lebanon. This matter concerns the Lebanese Government. We made our own decision by virtue of our visualization of the problem and our view on solving the question. I do not want to say anything that would influence Lebanon's thoughts on its question.

Question: It is said that the most important success of Egyptian diplomacy is that of preventing Al-Qadhdhafi from being the chairman of the OAU. Now that matters have developed, how would you describe relations with Libya?

Answer: In fact, in October 1981, I made a decision not to attack any Arab state be it at the information or other level, even if it attacks us through its information media. Since that date, we have not attacked Libya or Al-Qadhdhafi in any words that could offend him. We view relations only within the framework of neighborliness. There had been fear that Egypt would attack Libya. I assured them that we took the course of peace with Israel and we would not begin a fight with a neighboring Arab state. As to future relations, presently no relations exist between us and Libya and the matter is left to circumstances.

Question: Your Excellency delegated a personal envoy to attend the funeral of President Brezhnev. Do you envisage an improvement in Egyptian-Soviet relations so there will not only be special relations with the United States?

Answer: Brezhnev was the leader of a major power and the presentation of condolences was a duty regardless of the political situation. As for relations with the Soviet Union, I would like to say that the Soviet Union is a big power which has an embassy here without an ambassador, and we have an embassy there without an ambassador. Concerning the return of the ambassadors, we have not discussed this matter yet. It is being left to circumstances. We intend to deal with all countries on an equal footing and on the basis of noninterference in domestic affairs. I don't believe that when the time comes for the return of the ambassadors that this will have any connection with our special relations with the United States. We have an example before us: India has good relations with the United States and special relations with the Soviet Union. Why shouldn't we have relations with all countries while we have special relations with the countries that cooperate with us in many fields?

Question: How do you view your relations with France?

Answer: Our relations are clear. The evidence is that I am giving you an interview and I rarely give interviews to television, radio, or to the press. We have had strong relations with France for a long time despite obstacles in the past. I met with President Mitterrand a short time after he took office. We exchanged views and had conversations. There are many similarities in our ideas. I also met him when he came to Egypt to convey condolences on the death of President Anwar as-Sadat. I also met him during a private visit while I was on my way to the United States. He will come to visit the Arab Republic of Egypt this week. There are big trade exchanges and much cooperation between France and Egypt in various fields -- trade, industry, war production, and military fields. I believe this cooperation in all these fields is the best proof of our strong relations with France.

Question: What is the key role that France can play in the Middle East problem and between the two superpowers?

Answer: France is playing a key role and a very effective one within the European Community over the Middle East issue. France is helping to step up the peace momentum because it has excellent relations with both the United States and the Soviet Union. When a mediator like France has excellent relations with the two superpowers and with the parties to the conflict, this is considered a bridge which helps to strengthen the peace process. The Egyptian-French initiative is the fruit of this solidarity.

Question: Do you believe the presence of a Socialist president in France affects the growth of Egyptian-French relations?

Answer: I do not believe that a Socialist president can affect Egyptian-French relations. Each state has its own system. Relations among states are built on an equal footing and on the basis of noninterference in domestic affairs. I don't interfere in France's domestic affairs and President Mitterrand does not interfere in Egypt's domestic affairs.

RETURN OF SOVIET ENVOY REPORTED IMMINENT

PM241033 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Nov 82 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] According to foreign sources, one of the results of the visit to Moscow by former Prime Minister Mamduh Salim as President Mubarak's representative at Brezhnev's funeral, was an agreement on the return of the Soviet ambassador to Cairo as soon as possible.

Salim's talks paved the way for the restoration of normal relations between the two countries in accordance with the Egyptian president's wish to restore balance to [Egypt's] international relations.

'SOURCE' SCORES CRITICISM OF PLO CONTACTS

NC232135 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2106 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA) -- Commenting on the statements by some officials of a number of Palestinian movements about the PLO's contacts with Egypt and Yasir 'Arafat's visit to it, a responsible source has stated that these statements are mere charlatanism and reiteration of slogans which the Syrian regime is raising and are not meant to resolve the Palestinian issue.

Abu Jihad, assistant commander in chief of the Al-'Asifah organization; Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine -- General Command; and Khalid 'Abd al-Majid, an official of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front have made statements in which they denounced the contacts which the PLO is holding with Egypt.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON REVIVAL OF VOP BROADCASTS

PM231447 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 20-26 Nov 82 p 11

[From "AL-MAJALLAH correspondents' dispatches"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry is currently studying, with the organs concerned, the resumption of the Voice of Palestine transmission from Cairo. The transmission was suspended after the Camp David agreements at the request of the PLO.

Knowledgeable observers say that if it resumes transmission, the Voice of Palestine is supposed to respect Egypt's commitment to Camp David.

SALIM THREATENS TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH IRAN

NC231307 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1245 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Dr Elie Salim, minister of foreign and expatriates affairs, has conveyed to the Iranian ambassador in Beirut an official Lebanese protest to the actions being carried out by the armed Iranians in Ba'labakk. The minister has also conveyed to the ambassador a warning that [diplomatic] relations with Tehran will be severed, if Tehran does not immediately withdraw its armed men from Lebanon.

Reports from Al-Biqa's say that the Syrian forces today brought a new infantry battalion to the city [presumably Ba'labakk] and have intensified their roadblocks and mobile checkpoints in it. Syrian military helicopters airlifted the bodies of dead Iranians as well as Syrian and Iranian wounded, who fell in the attack that was launched against the Lebanese Army Barracks of Shaykh 'Abdallah. The army has been alerted and instructed to respond strongly to any attacks from wherever they come.

ENVOY DENIES IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN ATTACK

NC231245 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Senior officials today focused their attention on the new aggression by armed masked men against the Lebanese Army barracks in Ba'labakk last night, particularly as this incident followed the capture by armed men of Ba'labakk government house 3 days ago, which they later vacated after contacts were held at various levels.

President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil held contacts with the commands concerned and issued the necessary orders to them.

Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim met with Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Shaykh Musa Fakhra' 'I-Rohani with whom he discussed this subject. The meeting was attended by Lebanese Ambassador to Iran Fu'ad at-Turk.

After the meeting, Minister Salim went to Mansur Palace where he met with Speaker Kamil al-As'ad.

After his meeting with Minister Salim, the Iranian ambassador denied that Iranians were among those who attacked the government house in Ba'labakk. He said that he asked Minister Salim to deny the news in this respect and that he promised Minister Salimanan investigation into the subject. The Iranian ambassador said that he asked Minister Salim to assist in the release of the four kidnapped men, Musawi and his companions. The Iranian ambassador added that Iran, as a strong state, will stand by frateral Lebanon to help it emerge from its ordeal, to be independent and to build a strong government.

FOREIGN MINISTER SALIM TO VISIT BRITAIN 7-11 DEC

NC231614 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1330 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Western diplomatic sources said today Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim will pay an official visit to the United Kingdom from 7 to 11 December in response to an invitation from his British counterpart, Francis Pym. The sources added that, on his return journey, Salim will stop over in Paris for talks with Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson.

YASIR 'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS 24 NOVEMBER

JN240915 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Damascus from Tunis this morning. He is scheduled to preside over a PLO Executive Committee meeting to prepare and submit a report to the PLO Central Council's meeting, which is due to convene tomorrow evening.

ROMANIA'S AUREL DUMA ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS 22 NOV

JN221958 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Aurel Duma, Romanian minister secretary of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus at 1600 today on a visit to Syria. While here, Duma will hold talks with officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN231235 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Aurel Duma, Romanian minister secretary of state for foreign affairs, at 1200 today. Duma handed the president a message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and held talks with him on the current situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received Aurel Duma at 1330 today. They reviewed economic relations between the two friendly countries and their future development.

INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTS ON ARAB SITUATION

JN221820 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Damascus, 22 Nov (SANA) -- Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has affirmed that Syria will neither give up its cause nor bargain over its principles regardless of the attempts to bring pressure to bear on or circumvent Syria. In an interview published today in the Nicosia-based Arabic magazine AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI, the information minister said that the basic objective of the Arab struggle is to champion the Arab cause and action, realize an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, guarantee the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people led by the PLO and strengthen the faith in the unity of the Arab cause and its indivisibility.

The information minister expressed regret for the positive reception in the Arab world toward the vile campaigns of intrigue being launched by U.S. imperialism and Israel. He asserted: The military option is still in our hands. He who forfeits the military option will consequently forfeit the political one, and he who forfeits both options will render himself desperate and be considered finished.

He explained that Syria's interests run completely contrary to the U.S. plans, adding that the Arabs must be fully alert to ensure the future of the Arab nation. He added: the Arab youth's zeal is indispensable so that oppression will not be turned into humiliation and despair and the future of the Arabs will be subject to their will.

He added that those who are trying to sow despair in the soul of Arab youths are enemies, because despair is a word that does not exist in the lexicon of the Arab liberation movement. Those who propagate the failure of the Arab military option are premeditatedly propagating the Arab surrender.

The information minister affirmed that there is no future or life for a nation that does not defend itself. He said: We either fight honorably or fall in the abyss of capitulation. He said: Certainly, Egypt's departure to the enemy's trench is a great loss, the magnitude of which is best known here is Syria. He added: The battle against the Israeli occupation is a must and not an option for us. We must marshal all our intrinsic potentials and direct every Arab effort toward defending the threatened pan-Arab existence and achieving the Arab objectives.

He explained that the upset in the balance of power favors the Israeli enemy due to the U.S. administration's policy, which has made Israel an arsenal with the most modern weapons. He said: We in Syria must exert every effort to make what we possess militarily equivalent to what is in the hands of the enemy. This could be attained by relying on our intrinsic power, as we mainly do in developing our defensive capability, and on our loyal, strategic friends, the Soviet Union.

The information minister asserted that the upset in the balance of power cannot last long. The military option is aimed at fending off the danger so the invading Israeli forces will not commit massacres in other Arab countries as they did in Lebanon.

On the withdrawal of the Arab Deterrent Force from Lebanon, the information minister said that these forces entered Lebanon at the request of the legitimate Lebanese authorities and the Lebanese citizens. Lebanon is now under Israeli occupation and is in dire need of such forces, he added.

He said: There is no problem between us and the brothers in Lebanon about the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon. Negotiations will take place between the Syrian and Lebanese Governments with regard to the presence of these forces after the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

To a question on Syrian-Palestinian relations, the minister said that they are strong and solid, adding that Syria has sponsored the Palestinian Revolution factions and rendered them everything needed to make them a political and military force. He asserted that Syria is eager, as it always has been, to preserve the Palestinian national unity, because such a unity is capable of avoiding mistakes or falling into the enemies' traps.

The minister said that Syria and the Palestinians have one fate, one cause and a common enemy. We must confront it together and struggle for the sake of regaining our rights. He explained that the reports on Syrian-Palestinian relations disseminated by some foreign newspapers and news agencies are aimed at creating discord and dismembering the Arab stand as well as harming the Syrians and Palestinians and the cause.

TZIPORI TESTIMONY BEFORE INQUIRY COMMISSION

TA190834 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 18 Nov 82

["Transcript of 18 November testimony by Communications Minister Mordekhay Tzipori before the commission of inquiry into events at the Beirut refugee camps]

[Text] Justice Kahan began the proceedings with the usual admonition to tell the truth and then asked the witness his name and occupation.

Tzipori: Mordekhay Tzipori, minister of communications.

Kahan: In September 1982, you also held this position of communications minister?

Tzipori: Certainly.

Kahan: When did you first hear of the decision to enter Beirut and to involve the Phalangists in this entry?

Tzipori: On the 16th of the month. It wasn't a matter of hearing about involving the Phalangists; we were briefed on steps that had been taken -- and I would definitely request to treat this section afterwards, not in public.

Kahan: At what occasion were you briefed?

Tzipori: It was at the meeting at the prime minister's house, the Cabinet meeting.

Kahan: We know that this Cabinet meeting took place in the evening hours.

Tzipori: Yes.

Kahan: And we have the transcript of that meeting... Have you seen that transcript?

Tzipori: I have seen the transcript.

Kahan: And remarks you made at that meeting are included in it?

Tzipori: Yes.

Kahan: ...and the transcript accurately reflects what was said at that meeting?

Tzipori: Accurately reflects.

Kahan: At that meeting you heard that the Phalangists were supposed to enter the camps?

Tzipori: I heard that they had entered.

Kahan: That they had entered the camps. This was the first time you learned of this matter?

Tzipori: This was the first time we learned of ---

Kahan: You.

Tzipori: We learned. I had learned from the media of the fact that we are in West Beirut and everything connected to that.

Kahan: But about the Phalangists' entry into the camps you had already heard before that meeting, or only at that meeting?

Tzipori: Only at that meeting.

Kahan: Do you remember whether Major General Sagi was also at that meeting?

Tzipori: Yes.

Kahan: Can you perhaps remember whether he stayed until the end of the meeting, whether he left in the middle, or at what stage he left?

Tzipori: I didn't keep watch over when he was there, but what is clear is that he gave no information.

Kahan: But you remember that he left in the middle?

Tzipori: I don't remember whether he left in the middle; I remember that he did not speak.

Kahan: Yes, we know that from the transcript. Did you also hear at that meeting Minister Levi's remarks, as they are recorded in the transcript?

Tzipori: I think that at that stage I was outside.

Kahan: You didn't stay to the end?

Tzipori: I was there all the time -- but I also went out to the restroom.

Kahan: On the 17th of the month, did you receive any information on what was happening in Beirut?

Tzipori: Yes, on the 17th of the month, I -- there are times when I am at the Shalom Tower in Tel Aviv once a week. On that day I had an appointment with Ze'ev Schiff (military correspondent for the daily HA'ARETZ -- ed.) at 1100 hours; he is an old friend of mine...

Kahan: Had he called you earlier that day?

Tzipori: No, this meeting had been fixed already the day before, or two days before... He came at 1105, and then the first thing as he entered he said to me: Motke, I have reports that the Phalangists are massacring in the camps. I immediately got up, and the first thing I asked to speak to two men. I asked for the director of military intelligence ---

Kahan: Excuse me, you didn't ask for the source of the reports?

Tzipori: I didn't ask him about a source; I know journalists. I didn't ask him for a source, but I know he has sources; and he told me that officers had told him, straight ---

Justice Baraqi: Straight? Officers told (him) directly?

Tzipori: Straight from the foci of reports.

Baraq: That means that the officer who told (him) is an officer who was in Lebanon?

Tzipori: According to my estimation, it is an officer who was likely to be precisely from one of the senior commands, not necessarily in the field. But in accordance, let us say, with the proper procedure, there are three men who have a comprehensive official position, and they are: the head of the 'Mosad,' the head of the General Security Services, and the director of military intelligence, who has, to the best of my knowledge, he is the director of Military Intelligence of the State of Israel. So I allowed myself to phone the director of Military Intelligence and the head of the General Security Services; I wanted to confirm these things.

To my chagrin, the head of the General Security Services' people told me that he was on his way to Jerusalem, and also the director of Military Intelligence's people told me that he is not in. Afterwards, I found out that he, too, had come to Jerusalem.

Kahan: You did not tell their offices the contents of the reports?

Tzipori: I did not.

Kahan: You only said that you wanted to speak to them.

Tzipori: I was looking for them, yes, certainly. I knew -- on the previous evening, they had told us at the Cabinet meeting -- that at noon there would be a meeting of the foreign minister, the defense minister, and the American representative. And since I knew that the director of the General Security Services and the other people would be there, I called the foreign minister and I told him: Yitzhaq, reports have reached me that the Phalangists are massacring. I suggest, I request -- I don't know which terminology is correct -- that you check the matter out via your channels, or with the men that will be with you soon; I know that they are coming to you.

Kahan: Did you mention massacre, or Phalangists running amok?

Tzipori: I mentioned massacre.... That is the terminology as I remember I was told.... At 1105 I heard, and for about ten minutes I tried to reach the director of Military Intelligence and the head of the General Security Services; at approximately 1115 -- I considered this rather urgent, and I knew that people were gathering at Yitzhaq's, so therefore I called him directly and I told him this. (By the way, at the same time I also told him that the number of our casualties as reported in the papers was not correct; there are more, if I'm not mistaken, four men, who indeed were listed as missing, but from other sources I knew that they were dead.)

Kahan: You did not tell him the source of your information?

Tzipori: I did not.

Kahan: Did he not ask you?

Tzipori: He also did not ask.

Kahan: What was his answer when you told him that?

Tzipori: He said, he told me -- I heard (it). And that was it.

Kahan: Did you, during that day, do anything else? Did you call someone to find out what the outcome of the clarification was, or anything?

Tzipori: To tell him, I reported that to the foreign minister, I usually trust him; and besides, since perhaps I am considered a snoop, I stopped nosing around.

Kahan: Did you not deal with the matter any further?

Tzipori: I did not attend to it any further, the case --

Kahan: When did you learn more, from other sources, about what was happening in Beirut? When did you hear something else?

Tzipori: On that day I went to Safed, I was with friends there, and also visited a minority village, and until the night Rosh Hashanah was over I did not hear anything; I started hearing on the way, in the regular news. In fact, all the rest appears already toward the Cabinet meeting which was convened.

Kahan: Was there a Cabinet meeting on the 19th of the month?

Tzipori: Yes.

Kahan: And you participated in it. We have the transcript of that meeting as well, and you, too, must have gone over it.

Tzipori: Yes.

Kahan: Your remarks are recorded there, too.... Do you confirm having said the things recorded there?

Tzipori: Yes, definitely.

Baraq: Let us go back for a moment to what the journalist Schiff reported to you. If you can remember more neatly, did he say 'massacre', or 'slaughter,' full stop; or did he also say '300, 400, 120, 45 got killed'? Did he talk about men, women and children -- or did he enter, say 'massacre,' and then --

Tzipori: The moment he had told me that there is slaughter there, and the Phalange are running wild, I did not wait for more details, and so on.

Baraq: ...did he give you any details? Is the figure 300, or 120, a figure which was thrown into the air?

Tzipori: I do not think that he gave me figures. He spoke in general about the phenomenon of what was going on there.

Baraq: Did he speak of massacre in general, or was there also mention of men, as distinct from women, or women as distinct from men?

Tzipori: He said -- there is slaughter there.

Baraq: Did he mention women and children specifically?

Tzipori: Nothing specific on anything special with me.

General Efrat: There was a Cabinet meeting also on 15.9. At that meeting there was a lot of discussion about having to bring the Christians in to deal with West Beirut, I shall not cite. Can the decisions taken following that meeting be seen as permission, as government permission, for the Phalange to enter the camps?

Tzipori: In my opinion, definitely not. When an issue is understood and defined before the Cabinet, then there are definite decisions. It is true that throughout the discussions, during all that time, there were often questions asked as to how (come) we are fighting in Lebanon and the Phalange (or, as our soldiers call them "the aftershave soldiers") are spectators; and then they asked about it. But that was at the time of the fighting. I would like to ask to discuss this part separately.

Efrat: At a closed meeting. O.K. In the Cabinet discussion of 16.9 when the entry of the Phalange became known, when it was reported among other things that the Phalange had entered, there was no special treatment of the danger involved. Was this issue something that was felt, sensed?

Tzipori: I will say, I myself, that I think that in general I am fairly alert, that issue was not like anything acute. Later on I can repeat some of the reasons why, let us say, today one speaks of "red lights," why were there no "red lights," neither in my mind nor those of most of my colleagues, not even in the mind of the attorney-general, who was sitting with us. But on this I am willing to talk later, to answer all the questions.

Efrat: I think you have answered this question, but still I allow myself to ask: Did you receive reports about this matter, about what was going on in the camps, except for what was on the radio later on, when the whole matter came up on the radio, only from Ze'ev Schiff?

Tzipori: Yes.

Kahan: Do you think that you have more to add in a closed meeting, on your own initiative?

Tzipori: Definitely.

Kahan: Yes, good, so we shall hold an additional meeting, in a couple of minutes.

NEVO TESTIMONY BEFORE INQUIRY COMMISSION

TA220931 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 21 Nov 82

["Transcript" of 21 November testimony by Prime Minister Begin's military secretary, Lt Col 'Azri'el Nevo, to the commission of inquiry investigating the massacres in the Beirut refugee camps]

[Text] Justice Kahan: Do you remember, on the day Bashir al-Jumayyil was assassinated?

Nevo: Yes.

Kahan: After that event, were there any conversations between the prime minister and the defense minister in which you participated or about which you knew?

Nevo: When I received the report on the explosion...we, by that I mean the Mosad and myself, were in touch with the prime minister. I was at my home and the prime minister was at his home.

I don't know with whom exactly the prime minister spoke, but he got telephone calls. I spoke with the head of the Mosad and told him that it would be best to transmit the reports he gets straight to the prime minister; he transmitted the reports directly to the prime minister and also transmitted reports to me. I gave the last report to the prime minister the night after we positively learned that Bashir's body had been found. I spoke with the prime minister and he told me: Yes, I have just received that report from the head of the Mosad as well.

Kahan: Yes, did you learn that same night about any decision to enter West Beirut?

Nevo: No.

Kahan: And did you hear anything that night about having the Phalangists participate in that entry?

Nevo: That night I did not hear anything; but I suppose at ten minutes to 5:00 in the morning, 5:00 a.m., Hanan Bar-On, from the Foreign Ministry called me and told me that he had been asked by the Americans to find out what is the meaning of the Israeli movements inside West Beirut. I told him: Hanan, I'll check that out exactly. I telephoned operations, deputy head of operations department. He also gave me the size of the forces and where each force was. Around 5:20 I called the prime minister and reported to him on the size of the forces, what's happening, there are no clashes, there's no shooting. The prime minister said to me: This is exactly what we had in mind. We intended to send in these forces at night, he told me, after midnight, 00:30 hours, I spoke with the defense minister, and we decided to send that barrier in, in order to prevent -- he had told me, as far as I can remember -- to prevent chaos in West Beirut. I called the head of the Mosad again and talked to him, I went back to Hanan Bar-On and gave him the report, he asked me, can this be passed on to the Americans? I said to him, it can be passed on to the Americans.

Kahan: When did you first hear of the Phalangists and of their role in that entry?

Nevo: In that entry there was no mention of Phalangists at all.

Kahan: And so when did you hear?

Nevo: At the Cabinet meeting which was held on Thursday. During the Cabinet meeting it was reported that the Phalangists are at this moment operating inside the camps.

Kahan: You had not heard about this previously.

Nevo: No, I had heard from time to time that there were intentions and desires that the Phalange should be involved in the fighting.

Kahan: These desires were expressed over a fairly long period of time.

Nevo: Yes.

Kahan: You participated, you were present at that Cabinet meeting?

Nevo: I was present at that Cabinet meeting.

Kahan: From beginning to end?

Nevo: From the beginning of the meeting to its end, and of course, in the middle I go down to the office sometimes to receive reports.

Kahan: Do you remember whether the chief of intelligence, Maj Gen Sagi, was present at that meeting, or at some part of it?

Nevo: I remember that Maj Gen Sagi was at the beginning of the meeting, I don't remember, I know that this problem was raised, I don't remember whether he was there to the end.

Baraq: This meeting was at the prime minister's office or at his home?

Nevo: At the prime minister's office, at the secretariat, in the meeting room.

Kahan: About the events at the camps, first of all, the fact that Phalangists were given a role in the camps, you heard this only at the Cabinet meeting?

Nevo: Yes.

Kahan: And later you heard of what was going on in the camps. When did you first hear of what happened in the camps?

Nevo: I first heard of everything that happened in the camps on Saturday at six o'clock on Israel radio when I was in the car.

Kahan: Now on Friday, did you have any conversations with Bar-On?

Nevo: On Friday, as far as I can remember, I had no conversations with Bar-On. That conversation too I am prepared to clarify here: Two or three weeks ago I had been told by the Cabinet secretary that Hanan Bar-On claims that he reported to me that night. I called Hanan -- we're on excellent terms, he regularly calls me scores of times — I said to him, Hanan, what conversation are you talking about? He says, I reported to you on this conversation with the hospital. I told him, where did you call? He says, I called your home. I said, I was not home, on Rosh Hashana Eve I was not home, I left home at about five in the afternoon.

Kahan: This discussion between you and Bar-On was after he testified before the commission?

Nevo: No.

Kahan: Before he testified.

Nevo: Before. He said to me, I spoke with you; it seems to me, he says to me, at about eight.

Kahan: Eight in the evening?

Nevo: Eight in the evening? I said, Hanan, did you call me in Rehovot, or -- I was there; he says to me, no, I called you at your home.

Kahan: Where do you live?

Nevo: I live in Mevasseret Ziyyon. The holiday I spent ...

Kahan [interrupts]: Now on Friday, when did you, where were you in the afternoon, in the evening, on Friday, 17.9.

Nevo: I left Mevasseret Ziyyon, I left the house at about five, five-thirty, for Rehovot; I returned to my home after midnight.

Kahan: You were not home from 5.30 till midnight on 17.9.

Nevo: I wasn't; I can always be reached anywhere I am. I always leave an update on the telephone number of where I am, I have a pagecall, I have a Motorola in the car, so I can always be reached.

Kahan: Bar-On did not reach you that evening and did not speak with you that evening?

Nevo: Did not speak. He says that he called me at my home, but I was not there.

Kahan: There was no conversation, neither about the camps nor about any other subject?

Nevo: No, no.

Efrat: Was there anyone at home?

Nevo: No. There was nobody home. I also told Hanan; he says: I asked you whether IDF forces are on Banks Street and you told me they were not. I said, Hanan, in most cases in such conversations I listen, check with operations, check with other sources, and then give an answer.

Kahan: So did you hear anything on Friday about what was going on in the camps?

Nevo: Neither on Friday nor on Saturday.

Kahan: On that same Friday, you also did not ask about what was going on in the camps?

Nevo: Friday morning I was in touch with operations, I received all sorts of reports. I would like to point out that I receive, night after night, reports on each and every camel that crosses the southern border -- I received no reports. I contacted the prime minister, we spoke, we talked, we said good-bye, my last conversation with the prime minister was at 2:30 to his home, on a different subject altogether, at 2:30 p.m.

Kahan: On Friday.

Nevo: Yes. On a different subject altogether.

Kahan: In those conversations with the prime minister, had the question of what was happening in the refugee camps come up between you?

Nevo: The question had not come up because I told him that it had been reported to me that everything was quiet.

Kahan: From whom did you receive reports that everything was quiet?

Nevo: I asked. Every now and then I ask operations if there are any reports. Operations did not report anything to me, and there are the operations reporting people there.

Baraq: With whom in operations do you speak?

Nevo: They have, usually, a reports department, and they see to it that I am kept informed.

When problems arise, when I want to check on additional problems, then I talk either with the head of operations or with his deputy.

Baraq: And in the conversations in which you asked, did you in particular ask about the Phalangists, or did you ask in a general way?

Nevo: No, no. I asked in a general way what was the situation in Beirut; these are questions I generally ask, what is happening, is it quiet, are there casualties, the subject of casualties is of prime interest, especially to the prime minister.

Kahan: And they reported to you on what was happening in Beirut as regards the fighting?

Nevo: Yes.

Kahan: What did they tell you was the situation with the fighting?

Nevo: I do not recall at the moment what they said to me about the fighting situation, but there was nothing to make me uneasy.

Efrat: About the tank.

Nevo: About the tank and those missing; the tank which fell, those missing from it, and then that they had found the missing ones on the street corner, the three that were missing, the wounded person who had run back.

Baraq: But, for instance, that there were 300 terrorist casualties. That didn't...

Nevo [interrupts]: I did not hear about that.

Kahan: And that the Phalangists were fighting in the camps, that they had casualties? That two men were killed, you heard?

Nevo: No.

Kahan: You did not hear that either.

Nevo: I did not hear that either.

Baraq: Was there a conversation between the prime minister and the chief of staff on Friday morning?

Nevo: On Friday morning?

Baraq: 10.11.

Nevo: On Friday morning, not while I was sitting in the room.

Kahan: Something about Gaza Hospital you heard?

Nevo: I did not hear about Gaza Hospital on Friday.

Kahan: Nothing.

Baraq: On Wednesday, the 15th September, there was a conversation between the prime minister and the defense, the defense minister was in Beirut at the time -- are you aware of that conversation?

Nevo: Wednesday morning?

Baraq: Wednesday morning.

Nevo: Wednesday morning, as far as I can recall, there was (a conversation) between the prime minister and Draper, in which I also participated. The prime minister reported to Draper on the situation, on the entry. I do not remember that there was, that is, I was not ...

Baraq [interrupts]: And with the chief of staff?

Nevo: I was not there.

Kahan: On Saturday morning, where were you?

Nevo: On Saturday morning I went down to the center of the country, I was in Rishon Leziyyon, and then I went to Rehovot.

Kahan: There was no conversation of any sort between you and the chief of staff, or with any of his aides, in connection with what was going on in Beirut, or any conversation at all?

Nevo: No. I spoke with operations again, I updated them on my location, I gave them the telephone number. The only call I received was from the bureau chief of the head of the security services, at noon, he said he wanted to transmit some material; I said to him send the material, I am not in Jerusalem, you can send it directly to the prime minister. That was the only conversation. I called on my initiative several times, I asked whether there were any reports, they said to me: None.

Kahan: Do you know whether there was any conversation between the chief of staff and the prime minister on Saturday morning?

Nevo: I do not know of any conversation between the prime minister and the chief of staff. I must point out here that after the defense minister had testified -- I read the testimony in the newspaper "HA'ARETZ" -- and there it was reported on the conversation which had taken place between the prime minister and the defense minister. I called the prime minister's attention to the subject.

Baraq: Which conversation?

Nevo: Of Saturday morning, on the subject of Gaza Hospital. The defense minister, in his testimony, reported on the conversation, that the chief of staff had spoken with the prime minister. I asked the prime minister what the story on this was; he said to me, the prime minister, in surprise: I really do not understand how Gaza entered into the Lebanon affair. I said to him: The reference is to a hospital by the name of Gaza. He said: Now it is clear to me what is being talked about; but I said to him: Someone gave you the report? I know that the prime minister is accustomed to listen to the BBC from 5.00 a.m. I said to him: Have you heard? Have you heard it on the BBC? The foreign minister telephoned. He says to me: The first time, and it is a good thing that you explained that point, because I did not know what the connection was. That is all the subject of Gaza that I know about.

Kahan: So then the prime minister said he did not speak with the chief of staff.

Nevo: He did not speak.

Kahan: On Saturday morning. And you do not know, you have no personal information on any communication with the prime minister or any of his aides?

Nevo: Generally if any of the chief of staff's aides want to contact the prime minister, he does it through me. Not one phoned.

Baraq: Did the Americans contact you?

Nevo: The Americans did not contact me. The Americans generally contact the Foreign Ministry, the Foreign Ministry then refers the questions to me -- generally, not always. Sometimes directly to the Defense Ministry.

Efrat: In the course of Friday-Saturday, from the Foreign Ministry, someone from the Foreign Ministry, the director-general, the duty officer who was there, the duty person, or someone, did anyone speak to you, or with someone who was designated to convey to you, this report regarding the hospitals? Regarding the fact that the Americans are speaking about the Phalangists' having entered the camps and that they are calling attention to the results and so forth?

Nevo: No one spoke with me. I was surprised when I heard it at six on Israeli radio, part of the story.

Baraq: I mentioned earlier the conversation between the prime minister with the chief of staff on Friday morning.

Nevo: Yes.

Baraq: Do you know at all if such a conversation took place?

Nevo: I don't know about it, I said so earlier.

Baraq: The fact that it is unknown to you, does this mean that it didn't take place or that it took place but you did not know about it?

Nevo: The chief of staff is accustomed to contacting the prime minister in two ways: either by direct telephone to the prime minister's secretary, and this is a direct line, or by an operations telephone and this is through me. And I generally take care of transferring the call. I don't remember that he called through me, because then if he had called through me I generally would be a party to that conversation.

Baraq: If there were contact between the prime minister and the chief of staff, how would that work?

Nevo: He generally asks the secretary to get hold of him.

Baraq: Therefore it could happen not through you.

Nevo: Could be.

Efrat: The conversations which you held, are having, from home and so on, do you make a note of them in any way? Is there a record?

Nevo: There is no record. I generally write it down on a note for myself in order to clarify matters. I decide on the basis of my own judgment when to convey it to the prime minister and at what time to convey it to the prime minister. Not everything that comes to me -- in the end I become here a filter so that the prime minister doesn't drown in material.

Efrat: But you do make a record for yourself of the calls you receive at night or in the hours...

Nevo: Yes, but I don't keep it. This is a note on which I write down points that were raised, that's all. I don't have a log which I keep.

Efrat: Not a log, and you also have no notes of records of calls of those days, even if they...

Nevo [interrupts]: Generally if something comes to the office, I leave (it), at home, no.

Efrat: No, I'm asking you specifically concerning the notes.

Nevo: No.

Efrat: The conversations which the prime minister holds, is there any record of them or something?

Nevo: If these are telephone conversations, then no.

SASON DENIES 'ALI TOLD HIM ABOUT U.S. PLAN

TA221750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Egypt, Moshe Sason, has denied reports that in his talk today with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, he was given details about a U.S. plan to assemble representatives from the United States, Egypt and Israel within 3 weeks in order to resolve the Tabah dispute, and to prepare an agenda for talks on improving Egyptian-Israeli relations. Speaking to our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a, Sason also denied the reports that his meeting today with 'Ali was the first meeting in 3 months. Sason said that they met 3 weeks ago, and that the meeting had been publicized.

'Sources' Comment

TA231310 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1252 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Today Jerusalem political sources explained that in his talk yesterday with Ambassador Sason, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali did not present new Egyptian positions that would make it possible to begin the negotiations over the Tabah problem and normalization. Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel was told that at the meeting, which lasted for 90 minutes, each side explained his well-known positions and demands [derishot] on these matters. However, Jerusalem would like to emphasize the very fact that the meeting was held at the Egyptian's initiative.

OAU SUMMIT MEETING JEOPARDIZED BY CHAD ISSUE

Seven-Member Committee Talks

LD240008 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] The convening of the 19th OAU summit conference in Tripoli is still uncertain because of the issue of the representation of Chad. The members of the organization are divided over this issue.

The seven-member committee, which includes Tanzania, Mali, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Congo, Zambia and Libya and was set up in Tripoli last August, held a 2-hour meeting tonight. But the meetings' participants have refused to make any statement and have noted that they will convey the outcome of their discussions to the heads of states.

It has been observed that the situation deteriorated following the welcome given to Goukouni Oueddei -- a welcome that involved all the protocols given to heads of states. This step shows, according to observers, that the Libyan leaders have chosen the former head of the transitional coalition government of Chad to represent Chad at this summit. Intensive consultations are now taking place to find a compromise formula, which seems difficult to achieve. Intensive bilateral contacts took place between heads of delegations all day today, but it appears that they did not produce results.

Moreover a dinner banquet was cancelled at the last minute after it was scheduled to be held in honor of the heads of delegations. AP has observed that the diplomats who were invited to attend the opening scheduled for 23 November waited for more than 2 hours and were later told about the postponement. They were also told that they would be informed of any further developments later.

UN Secretary, Klibi Meet

LD240142 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution and African leaders Julius Nyerere, president of Tanzania; Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda; Mengistu Haile-Mariam, the head of state of socialist Ethiopia; Mozambique President Samora Machel; Mali President Moussa Traore; and the president of the Congo, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, held a long meeting last night [23 November] at the Grand Hotel in Tripoli.

At the same time, other meetings and talks between African leaders continue to ensure the success of the OAU summit conference and to bring about an African stand which embodies the unity of the African Continent and its aspirations.

A meeting was held between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala yesterday evening at the Grand Hotel in Tripoli. At the same time, Mozambique President Samora Machel met with the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

The UN secretary general yesterday evening met with Brother Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, and later paid an inspection visit to the UN offices in Tripoli.

Dr Peter Onu, OAU official spokesman, explained at a news conference he held yesterday evening at the information center in Tripoli that all African delegations present in Tripoli have been making intensive efforts to hold the summit. He said the six-man liaison committee is currently making a series of contacts and consultations with other African delegations for holding the 19th OAU summit conference.

He added that Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, current OAU chairman, is coordinating between the African delegations members in order to bring the viewpoints closer, and to ensure the convening of the conference and its success.

Dr Peter Onu criticized some of the foreign information media which have been publishing distorted reports about the 19th OAU summit conference.

Moi Talks With Leaders

LD231554 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, who is the current chairman of the OAU, this morning held private talks with President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, who called on him at his hotel suite in the city of Tripoli, Libya. President Moi also conferred with President Shehu Shagari of Nigeria. The talks with the two heads of state were aimed at resolving the current stalemate in the continental body. Later, the president received and held talks with the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar.

More reports from Libya says that the OAU chairman held similar talks in the afternoon with Presidents Nyerere, Shagari and Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone. During the 1 and 1/2 hour talks the four heads of state tried to find a solution to the stalled OAU summit due to the controversy over the seating of a Chadian delegation. President Moi urged the heads of delegations present in Tripoli to intensify their consultations in order to save the OAU from collapse.

Conference Opening Delayed

NC231629 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT 23 Nov 82

[By Geoffrey Varley]

[Text] Tripoli, Nov 23 (AFP) -- The Organisation of African Unity summit failed to open on time today as African leaders continued delicate negotiations on Chad, informed sources said here.

The sources said Presidents Shehu Shagari of Nigeria, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania and Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, the outgoing OAU chairman, and other leaders were holding talks with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on ways of overcoming the deadlock on the seating of the Chad delegation.

The talks continued as delegations here learned that three new states -- Senegal, Togo and Gambia -- were boycotting the summit. Morocco has already said it will not attend.

Unless Upper Volta, which recently underwent a military coup, manages to send a delegation here, this means that the total possible number of delegations cannot exceed 41.

Thirty-four countries are needed for a quorum. The summit was to have opened at 1500 GMT today and ended next Friday.

One of the compromise ideas being discussed, conference sources said, is formal OAU recognition of the Hissein Habre regime in Ndjamena, with agreement by Ndjamena to leave its seat at the summit empty. Observers here agreed that should the attempt to find a compromise fail, the existence of the OAU would be threatened.

Already last August the OAU summit failed to open because of a boycott provoked by a decision to admit the Polisario Front as a member.

The Libyans, who support Gen. Goukouni's National Unity Transitional Government (GUNT) based in Bardai, northern Chad, have decided to permit full exposure for the Goukouni delegation.

Goukouni's arrival was seen on television, and the GUNT's vice-president, southern Chadian leader Wadal 'Abdel-Kader Kamougue, was permitted to give a press conference at the OAU press centre during which he claimed Chad's seat for the GUNT, "the only legitimate representative of the Chadian people."

The Hissein Habre delegation, led by Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine, left for home last Sunday.

Fifteen heads of state and prime minsters have arrived here for the summit.

No Meeting 23 November

LD232202 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Excerpts] The 19th OAU summit did not meet in Tripoli this afternoon as scheduled because the heads of the states present in the Libyan capital, whose number does not exceed 17 out of a total 49 leaders, failed to find any solution to the problem of the representation of Chad. It is known that this problem was created by Libya, the host country, which used all its power to prevent the Chadian delegation from taking part in the work of the ministerial council. Some reports say that the meeting has been postponed until tomorrow if a quorum for convening such a meeting is attained.

Reliable sources in Abidjan said today that the Ivory Coast will not participate in the African summit conference in Tripoli. It is worth mentioning that the Ivory Coast delegation was among the 15 delegations that withdrew from the work of the ministerial council to protest the acceptance of the Chadian delegation.

Nigeria, Others Offer Compromise

AB232134 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Nigeria and four other African countries have worked out a compromise formula to resolve the disagreement over the Chadian seat at the reconvened summit meeting of the OAU, in Tripoli, Libya. It seeks a voluntary withdrawal of the Hissein Habre government from the meeting thereby leaving the seat of that country vacant. The formula was agreed to by President Shehu Shagari and his counterparts from Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sierra Leone after two informal consulations in the Libyan capital today.

A Radio Nigeria correspondent in Tripoli, Andy Anarado, said that it was most likely that the compromise formula would be acceptable to all the delegations. In the event of its adoption, he said, the OAU conference summit would go into effect from [words indistinct] tomorrow.

Earlier today President Shagari had advised African leaders to direct their attention towards saving the OAU. He remarked that it would be (?disgraceful) for the continent if the organization failed to live up to its charter and objectives. The president was speaking at a meeting during a series of informal talks with some African leaders on certain issues, especially the admission of Chad.

Idriss Says No Compromise

AB240835 Paris AFP in French 0730 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] Paris, 24 Nov (AFP) -- Chadian Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine has affirmed that there is no question of his country accepting a compromise as far as its participation in the 19th OAU summit conference -- expected to open in Tripoli on Tuesday-- is concerned.

In a statement he made to AFP in Paris on Tuesday, Mr Miskine who arrived there from Ndjamena declared: "We still abide by the fundamental principles of the OAU charter and we insist on our participation in the summit. Let the friendly states and all those who support legality continue to defend it by boycotting this summit conference," he added.

Mr Miskine, who has been mandated to represent Chadian head of state Hissein Habre at the Tripoli summit -- he had returned to Ndjamena on Monday — denounced the "Libyan game" which, he pointed out, is aimed at sowing "confusion and creating a diversion within the front of legality."

"I shall await the development of the situation in Paris from where I will maintain contact with all those who are supporting us," he continued. "The manner in which Goukouni Oueddei was received on Monday evening by the Libyan second in command is an insult to the whole of Africa and the OAU," Mr Miskine affirmed. "Goukouni Oueddei exists only by the will of Libya and represents only himself," he concluded.

SDAR MINISTER ON WITHDRAWAL FROM SUMMIT

LD231850 Algiers APS in English 1006 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Tripoli, 23/11/82 (APS) -- During a meeting held, yesterday, in connection with the 39th OAU ministerial summit and gathering foreign affairs ministers and representatives of countries having attended Tripoli's conference on last August, Mr Ould Salek responsible of Polisario Front external relations [bureau records list Ould Salek as SDAR information minister] made a declaration in which he presented SDAR situation and stressed the meaning and reach of SDAR decision to voluntarily and temporarily abstain from attending the 19th OAU summit. This decision, he said, was taken to reinforce African unity and to thwart American Moroccan manoeuvres. [sentence as received]

Several decisions praised SDAR for the high sense of responsibility and political maturity showed when taking this decision qualified as a "constructive, a courageous and a historical one".

On this occasion, delegates reaffirmed their solidarity with SDAR and stigmatized the "dangerous attitude of Morocco and its rejection of the only peaceful way enabling the coming back to peace, i.e. negotiations between SDAR and Morocco". This meeting was presided by Mrs Maria da 'Graca Amorin, Sao Tome and Principe, foreign affairs minister.

On another turn, Mr Ould Salek had talks with OAU secretary general and a high number of ministers.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID, FAHD, 'ARAFAT HOLD SECOND MEETING

LD231434 Algiers APS in Arabic 1410 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Algiers, 23 Nov (APS) -- A second summit meeting was held between Chadli Bendjedid, president and secretary general of the FLN Party; Saudi Arabian King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this afternoon at the president's office at Houari Boumedienne Airport.

It is noteworthy that Algeria and Saudi Arabia are members of the seven-member committee which emerged from the Fes summit, and which also includes the PLO.

'Arafat on Meeting

LD232006 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the second Algerian-Saudi-Palestinian summit meeting centered on a number of current issues, foremost of which was the Palestinian issue and the new developments in the Arab arena.

The Palestinian statesman explained after the summit meeting that the discussion dealt with a number of subjects of extreme importance.

It also dealt with joint coordination to confront the challenges which face the Arab nation and also with the activities of the seven-man committee, formed by the Fes summit, both in Washington and Paris and its future work in London, Moscow and Beijing.

Talks Centered on Gulf War

GF231306 Doha QNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Doha, 23 Nov (QNA) -- Quoting reliable sources, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB says today that the talks among Saudi leader King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Algerian leader Chadli Bendjedid and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat have concentrated on the Iraq-Iran war and on guaranteed means to end it, because it has become a source of danger to the security and stability of the GCC countries, which could weaken the position of the PLO.

The sources added that Algeria has expressed readiness to resume its efforts with Tehran in order to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war. Saudi Arabia has also expressed readiness to guarantee Baghdad's approval for a cease-fire on a date fixed by Iran. Yasir 'Arafat expressed his readiness to work with the Iraqi and Iranian sides to convince them to put an end to this war.

The sources told the newspaper that the Saudi king has telephoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to inform him of the results of his talks with Algeria. The sources added that the Algerian Government has not yet fixed a date to begin its contacts with Tehran.

'ARAFAT DEPARTS ALGIERS AFTER TALKS 23 NOV

LD232018 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution forces, left Algiers after a 3-day visit during which he had talks with President Chadli Bendjedid on Saturday. Yesterday afternoon there was a summit meeting between Brother Abu 'Ammar, President Bendjedid and Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who is paying an official visit to Algeria.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also paid a visit to the Palestinian Revolution forces stationed in Tebessa Wilayat, where a mass rally was held in his honor, at which Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar made an important political speech affirming the continuation of the Palestinian Revolution and the Palestinian armed struggle until we achieve our national aims of liberation and return.

On the other hand, Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed in a statement to the Italian paper REPUBBLICA the PLO's rejection of any political solution which may affect the sovereignty of the Palestinian people.

ALGERIAN MINISTER ON FAHD-BENDJEDID TALKS

LD231842 Riyadh SPA in English 1225 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Algiers, Nov 23 (SPA) -- Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, in an interview with SPA, said today the Algiers summit between King Fahd and President Chadli Bendjedid constituted a new phase in bilateral ties and in consolidating joint action on the international level.

The minister affirmed that Saudi Arabia and Algeria "shoulder greater responsibility in backing the Palestinian people and the PLO until the Arabs fulfil their aims of setting up an independent Palestinian state."

He said the talks between the (?two) leaders were concentrated on three main issues -- bilateral relations, Middle East questions and the situation in the Arab Maghreb.

"The most important point reached by the Fes summit as far as the Palestine cause is concerned was affirmation that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the need for U.N. Security Council guarantees for the proposed peace moves," he added.

The foreign minister said the Saudi-Algerian talks touched on all other conflicts in the Middle East and covered the "just, peaceful solutions based on the people's right to self-determination and respecting international frontiers."

He expressed the hope that efforts underway in this respect would result in the "aspired peaceful solutions in view of the Islamic nation's need for unity and for foiling any foreign attempts to sow discord."

Mr Taleb Ibrahimi went on to say that the joint Saudi-Algerian committee would dwell on two courses, the first evaluating Algerian plans and the prospects of Saudi Arabia (?partnership) in their implementation, and the second considering the possibility of establishing joint companies to carry out specific projects and exchanging trade.

SAUDI ENVOY CALLS FAHD TALKS 'SUCCESSFUL'

LD232134 Riyadh SPA in English 1942 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] Algiers, Nov 23 (SPA) -- The outcome of King Fahd's visit to Algeria was successful, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Algeria, Muhammad Hasan al-Faqi, said here today.

He told SPA that the talks between King Fahd and President Chadli Bendjedid were conducted in a "fraternal and cordial atmosphere" in view of the two leaders desire to achieve maximum benefits for the two countries in particular and the Islamic nation in general, especially at "this crucial and sensitive phase [word indistinct."

He said the talks covered bilateral relations in the light of the two countries' keenness to boost cooperation and increase coordination between them.

The envoy said the talks also covered several Arab, Islamic and international issues of mutual interest headed by the Middle East, the occupied Arab (?lands), Jerusalem and the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland.

Mr al-Faqi expressed appreciation for the hospitality accorded to King Fahd and his accompanying delegation and said it demonstrated the close bonds linking the two Arab states.

He said the visit was "positive and useful" in strengthening relations between the two countries.

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON FAHD VISIT, TALKS

LD231628 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1405 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Joint statement on Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz' visit to Algeria issued on 23 November]

[Text] In furtherance of the relations between the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for the sake of strengthening the bonds of kinship and fraternity between the two fraternal countries and at the invitation of His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, the FLN secretary general and president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, paid an official visit to Algeria from 21 to 23 November 1982.

In an atmosphere of fraternity, complete understanding and true desire for fruitful cooperation and bolstering of inter-Arab solidarity, the two leaders held talks characterized by mutual confidence and identity of views.

The talks were attended on the Algerian side by Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy and petrochemical industries; Abdelhamid Brahimi, minister of planning and national development; Lakhdar Ibrahimi, adviser at the presidency of the republic; Mohieddine Ahimour, adviser at the presidency of the republic; Saleh Kobbi, head of the Arab desk at the Algerian Foreign Ministry; and Tijsni Haddam, Algerian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

On the Saudi side the talks were attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs; Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral affairs; Ibrahim al-'Anqari, minister of labor and social affairs; Hisham Nazir, minister of planning; and Muhammad Hasan al-Faqi, Saudi ambassador to Algeria.

The talks covered bilateral relations between the two faternal countries, the situation in the Arab sphere and the development of Arab, Islamic and international affairs of common interest to both sides.

In the field of bilateral relations, the two leaders expressed their satisfaction with the constant development of these relations and their continuous growth for the good of both countries. They affirmed the need to continue their joint efforts to bolster solidarity, coordination and consultation between the two countries in the various fields of interest to both countries. They decided to set up a joint Saudi-Algerian committee headed by the ministers of planning in both countries to pursue and supervise joint cooperation projects to be agreed upon. The committee will meet once a year alternately in one of the two capitals. The committee's first meeting will be held in Riyadh in March 1983. They also decided to coordinate and exchange views in the field of oil, exerting the maximum efforts to defend and protect OPEC's official prices from fluctuation and eliminate the causes leading to their collapse.

The two sides carried out a comprehensive analysis of the current Arab conditions and the means needed to counter the Zionist challenges in the Arab homeland. In this regard, they strongly denounced the horrible massacres committed by the Zionists against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and their continued acts of persecution, torture and detention in defiance of UN resolutions, human rights and international law and tradition. They condemned the continued Zionist occupation of the Lebanese territory and renewed their support for and solidarity with the Lebanese people and their legitimate authority in their efforts to secure the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the national Lebanese territory and to safeguard the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The two sides affirmed their determination to consolidate inter-Arab solidarity and implement the Arab summit resolutions which provide for supporting the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and seeking the liberation of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, from the grip of Zionist occupation.

The two sides reviewed the efforts being exerted for settlement of the Middle East question and reiterated that no just and lasting peace in the region can be achieved without the realization of the established national rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state on their own soil.

The two sides paid special attention to the conflict between Iraq and Iran. They expressed their extreme concern at its continuation and stressed the need for finding a solution which will enable the two neighboring Muslim countries to consolidate their energies to serve the causes of destiny of the Arab and Islamic nation.

The two sides reviewed the situation in the African Continent and Arab-African cooperation, which constitutes one of the pillars of solidarity between the Arab homeland and the African Continent. They affirmed their determination to enhance and activate this cooperation in the common interests of the Arab nation and of the African peoples in liberation, progress and prosperity.

The two sides denounced the plots being hatched to undermine the independence of Namibia and reiterated their solidarity with the Namibian people headed by SWAPO. They condemned the policy of racial discrimination pursued by the South African administration.

The two sides affirmed the need to combine efforts to prevent any intervention by foreign forces in the affairs of the African Continent, something that would turn it into an arena for international conflict and [word indistinct].

The two sides affirmed their adherence to the principles of nonalignment and their determination to work for consolidating these principles in the service of international peace and security.

Reviewing the international economic conditions, the two sides affirmed the need for the establishment of an international economic system which will take into consideration the legitimate aspirations of the Third World countries to development and to the establishment of justice and equality among all peoples of the world.

The two sides expressed their pleasure at the satisfactory results they achieved. His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz expressed his thanks and appreciation for the warm hospitality shown him on the official and popular levels. His Majesty King Fahd addressed an invitation to President Chadli Bendjedid, the FLN secretary general and president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, to visit the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The invitation was gladly accepted and its date will be fixed in the future.

TUNISIA

ARABIC WEEKLY REPORTS MORE 'TERRORIST' ARRESTS

PM190911 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Nov 82 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Tunis: Two More Arrests in the Terrorist Group Case"]

[Text] Tunis -- ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT learned yesterday that 2 more members of the terrorist group uncovered by the Tunisian authorities a few days ago have been arrested, bringing the total number of detainees to 13. It is believed that three of them belong to an extremist wing of the Ahmad bin Salih movement. They came from abroad and crossed into Tunisia from a neighboring Arab country.

Three of those held on suspicion of links with the terrorist group were released yesterday, but the rest have been referred to the investigating magistrate to be charged and brought before the courts.

Some of the accused belong to very extremist trends. Some call themselves "revolutionary populists."

The detainees include journalists 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jabnuni, who used to work for the independent newspaper AS-SABAH, and 'Umar al-Majiri, who used to work for the ruling Destourian Socialist Party's weekly newspaper BILADI. Another detainee is a member of the motion picture club society.

Initial investigation indicates that the group was planning attacks on public establishments.

The group members who were apprehended for investigation by the national security department were yesterday referred to the investigating magistrate to pave the way for the drafting of an indictment to be brought against them in the specialized courts.

ZAIRE

NEW PRIME MINISTER KENGO WA DONGO RETURNS

AB191724 Paris AFP in English 1713 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Text] Kinshasa, Nov. 19 (AFP) -- Zaire's recently-appointed prime minister, Kengo Wa Dondo, flew into Kinshasa today from Brussels to take up his new duties.

The former ambassador to Belgium and the European Economic Community was named premier two weeks ago in a major Cabinet reshuffle by President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Before leaving Belgian capital he had a farewell audience with King Baudouin.

GEORGE BUSH ARRIVES IN KINSHASA 21 NOVEMBER

AB221056 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0920 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 22 Nov. (AZAP) -- The U.S. vice president and Mrs George Bush arrived in Kinshasa at 1700 on Sunday and were received at Ndjili Airport by the first state commissioner, Kengo Wa Dondo, and his wife.

In a speech delivered at the VIP lounge of Ndjili Airport, the first state commissioner -- in the name of Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic -- welcomed the U.S. vice president and his delegation.

Citizen Kengo recalled that 10 years ago, Mr Bush visited Africa as a representative of the United States at the United Nations. The U.S. vice president's present visit to Africa demonstrates the interest the United States attaches to African problems, the first state commissioner declared.

Africa, Citizen Kengo Wa Dondo said, is now experiencing a crisis, the grave consequences of which very seriously affect the economic and social progress of African states. Despite all efforts and sacrifices, our states find it difficult to resist the multiple assaults of the international economic crisis, he continued.

Moreover, the international political atmosphere is not favorable to the efforts of cooperation for the development of the developing countries. In this situation, it is essential that the wealthy countries of the North with means at their disposal should increase their assistance to the countries of the South to enable them ensure their economic development and the well-being of their people, the first state commissioner maintained.

"Your present visit to Kinshasa honors the Zairian people and their leader and demonstrates the importance the United States attaches to its relations wtih Zaire as well as its desire to develop and consolidate the bonds of friendship and cooperation in the well-understood interest of the two countries," Citizen Kengo stated. He recalled that since the advent of the Second Republic, Zaire has been working relentlessly to protect and consolidate the fruits of independence -- their dearly won freedom and national unity. "All our efforts are aimed at building a democratic, peaceful, modern and prosperous society," Citizen Kengo affirmed. This is why, he said, Zaire attaches importance to the problems of security in Africa because economic and social development is not possible in the absence of political stability.

GHANA

RAWLINGS ANNOUNCEMENT ON FAILED COUP ATTEMPT

AB240703 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Statement by Flight Lt Jerry John Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, in Accra on 24 November -- live]

[Text] Countrymen, this is Flight Lt Jerry John Rawlings. I've come to the studio this morning to announce that loyal troops have successfully defeated an attempt to overthrow this regime and this began yesterday afternoon. All units of the armed forces and strategic points are firmly under the control of loyal troops. Unit commanders are to remain vigilant and move troops only on my orders or on the orders of the army commander. I urge all soldiers to remain at their posts and not believe any of the lies being fabricated.

I'm ordering the remnants and misguided individuals who are still on the run to surrender themselves to the nearest police station for their own safety; otherwise they will be mercilessly crushed. I appeal to all civilians to go about their normal duties and business peacefully. Until further notice and with immediate effect, curfew hours will be observed throughout the country from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. All the borders of Ghana will remain closed and the Kotoka International Airport will also be closed until further notice.

Countrymen, whatever our difficulties have been, this regime stands for truth and justice. Any attempt to disturb her stability therefore is an attempt to return this country to falsehood, crime and injustice. We do not need blood; we do not need dead bodies and destruction. We all need to love our country and our fellowmen. It is only by so doing that we will survive as a nation and people.

Countrymen, let us keep faith with God and He will keep faith with us. Let us believe in ourselves and because of the righteousness of our cause, God will keep faith with us. The laboring process of a woman on the verge of becoming a mother is a painful process. The beauty of that suffering is seen when the child is born and lying in the arms of the mother.

My fellow countrymen, this nation is going through the laboring process if giving birth to freedom and justice. This country is my country, my motherland and has always been. This country is my fatherland and has always been. We are prepared to shed our blood for this nation the way our ancestors did.

Thank you very much. God be with you.

RADIO: PEOPLE WARNED TO REMAIN VIGILANT

AB240658 Accra Domestic Service in English 0650 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] All the talking brothers and sisters and technician brothers and sisters who came on duty yesterday and worked around the night hours are still here alive, awake and happy at the failure of the enemy to disrupt the smooth running of the country. We bid you a good day and ask you to be still vigilant.

REBEL TROOPS WARNED TO SURRENDER TO POLICE

AB240842 Accra Domestic Service in English 0803 GMT 24 Nov 82

["Special announcement"]

[Text] All rebel troops and soldiers who are on the run are warned to surrender themselves to a police station. It is in their own interest that they do so. All unit commanders are to maintain strict vigilance. No troops are to be moved from units outside Accra except on the orders of Flight Lt J.J. Rawlings or the army commander. Any troops moved in disregard of the appointed orders will be bombarded from the air. All civilians are advised to go about their duties and business peacefully.

Fellow countrymen, this is a delicate moment in our history. Stand firm and united and do not allow a few disgruntled anarchists and ambitious men to sow seeds of confusion among us and plunge the country into bloodshed.

ACCRA RADIO URGES SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT

AB241020 Accra Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] Patriots of Ghana: If anyone has doubts about the reality of counterrevolution and the utmost necessity to be vigilant, this act of infamy, treachery and crime is a concrete evidence. Counterrevolution and reaction have been operating sometimes quietly, sometimes ragingly for some time now.

Last night, counterrevolution made its bid to seize power and turn back the hands of time, derail the cause of freedom and democracy and throw our beautiful Ghana into the dungeons for the demons of backwardness. Last night, it was not only soldiers who fought back. Civilians, many civilians bare-handed, showed incredible solidarity with out gallant patriotic soldiers. Civilians in Accra joined soldiers loyal to democracy and freedom to ferret out the agents of doom and crime. Civilians defied curfew to give batteries to soldiers needing them for flashlights and vehicles.

About 60 workers of GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporat ı] stood firm behind the soldiers and vowed to defend GBC from being taken by lunatic agents of crime and murder. But the cowardly counterrevolutionaries did not even venture near GBC.

Counterrevolution has miscalculated but we cannot sit down idle. Brace yourselves, patriotic Ghanaians: Stand up, unite and fight back when counterrevolutionaries rear their bloody heads. Patriotic Ghanaians, this is one great act of treachery and infamy. Resist all forms of subversion. Resist treachery and crime. Let us unite and beat back our enemy. Our war song must be: freedom or death. It is freedom or death at the dirty hands of mongerers of death and slavery! Unite as never before, patriots of Ghana! Freedom or death!

ACCRA RADIO URGES CITIZENS TO 'CRUSH ENEMY'

AB241129 Accra Domestic Service in English 1108 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] Patriotic people of Ghana: Counterrevolution has gnashed it fangs. Reaction has drawn up its claws.

Infamy and murder have raised their daggers once again to spill blood and drown this country of ours in their bids of backwardness, suffering and inhumanity.

Patriots of Ghana, workers of Ghana, farmers, youth, students, traders, democratic-minded business people, patriotic intellectuals, soldiers, all patriots of Ghana: Stand up, unite and brace up for your dear motherland. Patriotic Ghanaians, this is the hour to show our true love for our dear country, Ghana. Stand up, unite, brace up, stand firm behind the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] and our leader, Flight Lt Jerry Rawlings, to crush the enemy planted in our midst, attempting to throw our freedom and humanity into the mire of blood and infamy.

Patriotic Ghanaians, Jerry has assured us this morning that the enemy is virtually crushed. Many of the misguided agents of destruction and death have been grabbed. The isolated pockets of (?lone) destructive adventurists are on the run, desperate and dangerous. They are being pursued and will be chased till they are grabbed.

Need we fear? Need we panic? The people are not cowardly, but our courage can only be concrete, productive and constructive in this hour of infamy only if we stand united behind our avowed cause of building democracy. It is our freedom to create a new society to advance our freedom that is at stake, threatened by the blood-dripping daggers of our enemies. We cannot, must not and will not succumb! We must fight back! Patriots of Ghana, unite for your freedom! It is freedom or death!

TUC TO HOLD SOLIDARITY RALLY 25 NOVEMBER

AB241136 Accra Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 24 Nov 82

["Special announcement"]

[Text] The interim management committee of the TUC [Trade Union Congress] urgently requests all workers of Accra-Tema metropolitan area to attend a workers solidarity rally at the forecourt of the hall of trade unions, workers' revolutionary square, at 0900 tomorrow, Thursday, 25 November. All acting regional secretaries of the TUC are also expected to organize similar rallies in their capitals.

The interim management committee of the TUC requests all management to see to the release of workers and provide transport for this solidarity rally. Forward ever with the people's revolution! Backward never! Long live Ghana! Long live workers' solidarity! Long live PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council]!

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA COMMENTS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR U.S.

LD232134 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, has left for New York to hold discussions with the American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, on South-West Africa and on bilateral relations.

On his departure, Mr Botha said it was important for South Africa to have direct contact with the American administration to sort out the many serious matters affecting South Africa and South-West Africa/Namibia.

He said South Africa had certainly reached a very delicate stage in the negotiations on a settlement in South-West Africa/Namibia. South Africa had to see where it stood and whether it would be possible to achieve the implementation of the proposals for the territory as soon as possible. The South African minister of foreign affairs said the extension of the term of the National Assembly and the Administrative Council in South-West Africa/Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola would be important topics in the talks with Mr Shultz.

Mr Botha said the possibility of an internal election in the territory would also be on the agenda of the discussions with the American secretary of state. However, he said the United States would not be interested in the internal turn of events in South-West Africa/Namibia on the condition that nothing was done to endanger the negotiations to achieve an internationally acceptable solution.

SWAZILAND

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES NATION 22 NOVEMBER

MB221807 Mbabane Domestic Television Service in English 1650 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Speech by Prime Minister Prince Mabandla to the Swazi nation in Mbabane on 22 November, in English -- recorded]

[Text] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of her majesty, the queen mother and her majesty's government, I take the opportunity to address words of profound gratitude and appreciation to all members of the civil service, the police, defense force and the prison service as well as to all chiefs, councillors, church leaders and the entire Swazi nation, for the most patriotic and selfless manner in which you all carried out your respective duties during the state funeral of our late king, His Majesty King Sobhuza II.

Throughout this sad and painful occasion and the subsequent mourning period, you all displayed a marvelous spirit of national unity and cooperation, which all helped to ensure that our beloved king was laid to rest with the dignity, respect and the love he so well deserved. Although, as a nation, we have all suffered a painful loss, we nevertheless derive considerable strength and comfort from the spirit of national oneness and manner in which you organized the entire ceremony of paying our last homage to our departed sovereign.

I wish to direct words of special thanks to all bus owners in the country for their commendable spirit of patriotism, respect and deep affection for their king which was clearly demonstrated by their kind gesture of providing free bus transport on the day of the state funeral in order to enable every Swazi the opportunity of paying his last respect to his beloved sovereign. I am confident that if we as a nation stand united, continue to follow the footsteps and to abide by the wise counselling of our late king, we shall always triumph over any difficulties and we shall always be able to forge ahead into new heights of economic prosperity, peace and continued national stability.

Swaziland shall continue to be guided by the rule of law, and no man, irrespective of his social status or position, will be allowed to flout the laws of the country. I consider it my duty, therefore, to remind all my fellow countrymen that political activities remain prohibited in Swaziland, and that no meetings of whatever nature may be held in this country without a written permission of the commissioner of police. Let me sound timely warning in this regard that should anybody fail to comply with these legal requirements, government will view such failure in a very serious light and government may feel compelled to invoke the measures provided by Section II of the Detention Order No 1 of 1978. I wish to make it clearly understood to everybody that any person, regardless of his status or any other consideration, who participates in any illegal meeting or gathering will be taking the risk of being detained without trial for a renewable period of 60 days.

I derive no joy from using these measures, but I have the duty to ensure that the laws of this country are obeyed by everyone in Swaziland. Swaziland will continue to follow her long standing policy of good neighborliness and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. We shall continue to grant asylum to bona fide refugees, but Swaziland cannot afford to allow its territory to be used as a springboard for launching armed attacks against other states.

Swaziland believes that it would not be in the interest of her own people to allow itself to be used as a battleground for other people's wars. I therefore wish to make a strong appeal to the country's refugee community to respect the laws and the territorial integrity of our country and to abide by the conditions of their asylum. It is contrary to the laws of the country for unauthorized persons to possess arms of war in Swaziland. It is also an offense, under our laws, for anybody to conceal or to harbor any person whom he knows to be in possession of arms of war.

On the economic front, we shall continue to follow the economic policy laid down by our late Majesty King Sobhuza II. Private ownership will remain the dominant feature of our national economy and foreign investments will continue to be welcomed in Swaziland, and private investors will be protected.

Finally, I can given you no better advice than repeating what was said by our late Majesty King Sobhuza II at his last public address on 22 July, 1982 when he stated that, I quote: If we all continue to be guided in future by our present spirit of national solidarity and unity of purpose, we shall always be able to march forward into new horizons of economic prosperity, social well-being and national happiness. So let us all combine our strength in building a better future for ourselves and a future for Swazi generations.

These were indeed words of great wisdom which we can now only ignore at our own peril. Thank you and good evening.

ZIMBABWE

IAN SMITH BRIEFLY DETAINED, RELEASED 23 NOVEMBER

AB240752 Paris AFP in English 0712 GMT 24 Nov 82

[Text] Harare, Nov. 24 (AFP) -- Zimbabwe police detained former Premier Ian Smith and several associates for questioning for about two hours last night before releasing them early today, according to one of those present.

Senator Mark Partridge, a member of Mr. Smith's Republican Front (RF) white opposition party, said about 20 people were taken to Harare central police station from a central city dress shop where they were attending an art show.

The group included Mr. Smith and his wife Janet, Mr. Partridge and Brigadier John Probert.

Police told the group, all whites, were hauled in on suspension of holding a political meeting without a permit, Mr. Partridge said. He said the gathering was strictly social, that Mr. Smith had been invited to give it "a certain cachet" and described the police swoop on the dress shop as "harassment directed from on top".

The senator said it was not made clear who had ordered the swoop, but that police officers at the scene were clearly getting constant instructions from headquarters before the group of 20 was taken to the station.

BRIEFS

NETHERLANDS CORN PURCHASE -- The Dutch Government has bought more than 30,000 tons of Zimbabwean maize for Zambia. Announcing this in Harare yesterday, Holland's ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Louis Schneiders, said the maize, worth over $4 million, will be delivered to Zambia soon. The maize has been bought under the Dutch Government's aid program to the SADCO [Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference] and other developing countries. [Excerpt] [Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Nov 82 MB]